

Hungary opposition confident

BUDAPEST (R) — Opposition parties said Sunday they were confident of victory in Hungary's first referendum with voters backing their call for delaying presidential elections until after free parliamentary elections next spring.

"We are definitely expecting a victory," Tibor Vidos of the Alliance of Free Democrats told Reuters shortly after the last of 11,007 polling stations nationwide had closed at 8 p.m. (2000 GMT). The ruling Socialist Party wants to hold direct presidential elections Jan. 7. Its candidate László Pongrácz's chance of becoming president are likely to be much lower at a later date. But with voting results yet to emerge, Hungarian television published an opinion poll taken Saturday which found that 49 per cent would vote for a president to be chosen only after the country's first free parliamentary elections while 43 per cent wanted them earlier. The top polling official, meanwhile, announced on television that 53.6 per cent of the electorate of nearly eight million had turned out to vote by 4 p.m. (1500 GMT). A 50 per cent turnout was required for the referendum to be valid.

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Jordan turns a new leaf today with 11th Parliament

By Neimeneh Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan today embarks on a new era in its history with the convening of its 11th parliament, symbolising the first step towards democratisation after what was widely seen as the most honest and free elections in the Arab World.

As the domed Parliament House in Amman reawakens today after a 15-month slumber, the future course of the country will also be signalled in a speech delivered by His Majesty King Hussein from the Throne outlining the guidelines and framework of political, social, economic and cultural life of the Kingdom.

The opening session will be attended by the 80-member Lower House of Parliament, elected on Nov. 8, and the newly appointed 40-member Upper House (Senate) in addition to hundreds of notables in the Jordanian society, including tribal leaders, former parliamentarians, ministers, top-level officials and others.

Although no details of the King's speech were available by Sunday evening, it is expected that the King will endeavour to clarify issues which representatives highlighted in their campaigns before elections, especially the issue of martial law and Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

His Majesty is also expected to outline the government's intentions to come closer to the legislative power to work together towards developing the judicial and legislative authorities in accordance with the needs and realities of the Kingdom. King Hussein, according to observers, will take the first step towards narrowing the gap between the government and legislative authority.

All government departments and public institutions as well as public and private schools in the Greater Amman area will be closed Monday to mark the occasion of the opening of Parliament, convening for the first time since July 1988 when the King dissolved it to absorb the reality of the Kingdom's severance of links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The 120 members of Parliament will be officially sworn in separate sessions of the two houses held immediately after the opening ceremony, which will be preceded and followed by a series of colourful protocol proceedings.

The Senate session will not hold any major surprises since the speaker of the house is appointed. But, it will name a committee to prepare a reply to the King's speech and elect its various committees as well as two deputy speakers.

The session will be chaired by Ahmad Al Lawzi, who was reappointed by the King as a series of royal decrees issued last week. The decrees will be read out at the outset of the session.

Each senator will pledge to "remain faithful to the King and the Motherland, to protect the Constitution, serve the Nation and fulfil my allocated duties as well as I can."

The Senate session will be immediately followed by a regular session of the Lower House which will be chaired by the oldest deputy as temporary speaker, Yousef Mbaideen, who, according to information available to the Jordan Times, is the oldest, will assume the chair until the formal election of speaker Monday.

The name of each deputy-elect is read out and each takes the constitutional oath before plunging into what is expected to be one of the most unpredictable election of a Lower House speaker.

The deputies are asked to nominate candidates for speaker among them and blank ballot cards are distributed. The balloting is confidential and deputies cast their ballots as their names are called out by the secretary general of the Parliament, Hani Khair.

When the voting is completed the ballots are read and announced one by one. The candidate to win the first round of balloting has to secure an absolute majority of 41 votes. If no one manages to secure an absolute majority in the first round, the top two scorers are pitted against each other in a second round in which a simple majority is sufficient to win the race.

The new speaker is then invited by the temporary speaker to take his seat and the representatives elect two deputy speakers. The representatives have to also elect the committees of the Houses as well as a committee which will prepare the answer to the speech from the throne.

Race for speakership
The race for speakership seems to be diminishing in scale as with three declared candidates vying for the position while one of them admits that his chances are slim. Sulaiman Arar and Yousef Mbaideen seem to be competing neck to neck for the speakership office while Laith Shbeilat is projected to fall far behind.

Many observers predict that Arar may be able to secure an absolute majority in the first round of balloting if at least 10 members of the "democratic bloc" decide to cast their votes for the former interior minister as a first choice rather than a second to Shbeilat. Arar has already said that he is guaranteed 31 to 34 votes without the bloc's support.

If however, the bloc decides to vote for Shbeilat in the first round as a show of support, then the race will move to a second round. Mbaideen will not be able to secure the 41 votes in the first round since several Islamists, including Shbeilat, Yacoub Qarash and Ali Al Faqir, are not expected to vote for him. Other Islamists who may not agree with

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Budget Department explains provisions in 1990 budget

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Budget Department Sunday issued a statement outlining the main principles adopted by the government in the course of preparing the 1990 fiscal budget, which was endorsed by the Council of Ministers at Saturday.

The statement said that the budget of JD 1,105,812,000 took into consideration Jordan's endeavours to achieve the economic adjustment programme, to increase self reliance and to boost production and exports.

It said the JD 199 million deficit, up from JD 122 million in 1989, was equivalent to 16.5 per cent of the gross domestic product in 1990, down from 20.2 per cent in 1989 and 24 per cent in 1988.

The statement said that the budget was based on the following principles:

1. The general effort to increase local revenues and self-reliance.
2. On the assumption that financial aid coming to the treasury will reach JD 162.6 million, of which JD 152.1 million will come from Arab countries.
3. Saving the greatest possible amount of capital expenditure.
4. Maintaining a reasonable level of social services.
5. Maintaining subsidy for commodities, for which JD 60 million has been allocated.

The statement noted that the fiscal budget has been divided into:

1. Recurrent budget.
2. Capital budget.

3. Financing budget.
- Domestic and external loans to Jordan will not appear under revenues but under the third clause: financing budget, the statement added.

Following are main categories of the 1990 budget as endorsed by the Council of Ministers:

1. Revenues:
 - a. Local revenues — JD 694.1 million.
 - b. Financial assistance — JD 162.6 million.
 - c. Loans due to Jordan from other countries — JD 50 million.Total: JD 906.7 million.
2. Expenditure:
 - a. Recurrent expenditure — JD 852.4 million.
 - b. Capital expenditure — JD 253.5 million.Total: JD 1,105.8 million.
3. Deficit — JD 199.1 million.
4. Repayment of loans — JD 87.5 million.

Total deficit: JD 286.6 million.

According to the statement, the deficit will be met through loans as under:

1. External loans — JD 252.9 million.
 2. Internal loans — JD 33.7 million.
- Total: JD 286.6 million.

The statement noted that JD 100 million in internal revenues were expected in 1990, especially coming from big increases in income tax, profits, customs duty, fees on cables, post office and telephone services, returns from the mining industry.

It said that there be an expected JD 97.7 million increase in recurrent expenditure, due largely to the government's pledge to maintain subsidy on food supplies, the payment of interest on foreign loans, payment of pension and compensation.

The draft budget, will be presented to the Kingdom's newly-elected parliament soon after it convenes session Monday.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has said he will resign after the session and it is not clear if Finance Minister Basel Jaradeh will retain his post in the new government.

The official cost of living index has risen by 31 per cent in the past 12 months and the Jordanian dinar has lost two fifths of its dollar value during the same period.

The Kingdom is rescheduling its \$8 billion debt with foreign governments and commercial banks.

This year's budget forecast a deficit of 122 million dinars (\$256 million at end-1988 exchange rates). Economists believe the actual 1989 deficit will be roughly double that figure but no official estimates are available.

Under an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, Jordan is committed gradually to trim its budget deficit over the next five years.

Jaradeh has raised spending on education and health slightly, but allocated nothing for an increase in public sector wages, which have not risen across the board since March 1985.

Arab talks on peace process postponed

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab League postponed an emergency foreign ministers meeting set for Sunday in Tunis and is consulting Arab countries on a new date to discuss the Middle East peace process, a league spokesman said.

Arab diplomats said the meeting was postponed because only one minister, Tariq Aziz of Iraq, had arrived in Tunis in time.

"The date was not suitable for a large number of ministers. It could take place within two or three days," one ambassador told Reuters.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) asked for the meeting on Nov. 17 to talk about Israel's attitude towards negotiations and peace initiatives in the Middle East.

League spokesman Mohammad Maghribi told reporters ministers consulted Saturday by telephone had agreed that a meeting was "not opportune" at present.

"The meeting was too hastily convened," Maghribi said. "There was not sufficient time to prepare for it."

The league held its last full meeting Sept. 13 to discuss a long list of subjects including Middle East peace proposals, the aftermath of the Gif war and the European-Arab dialogue.

Sunday's gathering of the 22-member league had been called by the PLO with the sole purpose of discussing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But unofficially, the ministers were also bound to discuss the consequences of the assassination Wednesday of Lebanese President Rene Muawad and the election of Elias Hrawi to succeed him.

The league had announced the day before that the council was to meet Sunday. League officials said later that the situation in Lebanon "clearly modified the picture," even though Hrawi was named in record time to take over the country's leadership.

By Tuesday, the day before the assassination, 13 states had expressed approval of the meeting requested by the PLO. But by Saturday, it appeared that only Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman — which had presided over the Sept. 13 meeting — had delegated their foreign ministers to

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Palestinians begin paramilitary patrols

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Groups of Palestinian activists armed with assault rifles have begun organised patrols in the West Bank city of Nablus to search for Palestinians they suspect of collaborating with Israel, Arab reporters said Sunday.

Members of two underground Palestinian groups have been seen at least twice patrolling alleyways in Nablus' Old City, carrying lists of suspected collaborators and questioning people, the reporters said.

Israeli Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, meanwhile, proposed to annex parts of the occupied lands with dense Jewish settlement as a prelude to the Israeli-offered Palestinian elections.

The hawkish Sharon, a leading opponent of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in the right-wing Likud bloc, said on Israeli army radio that otherwise "elections, in the form offered by our plan, would lead to a Palestinian state."

Also Sunday, a protest erupted outside the military court in the West Bank town of Ramallah, reportedly after Palestinian detainees spit and cursed at Israeli soldiers.

Soldiers beat the detainees

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Czech premier presents opposition demands

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec met opposition leaders Sunday and pledged to 400,000 demonstrators that he would urge the Communist Party to consider their demands for democracy.

The party's decision-making Central Committee later began an evening crisis session, its second in three days.

"There is no time for disagreement and fights for prestige," Adamec told the flag-waving crowd of demonstrators on the snow-swept Letna parade ground hours after being handed a list of demands during face-to-face talks with opposition leaders.

"People will judge us by our ability to overcome the past," Votava said. "I will present all the demands to today's session of the central committee and I will insist they be considered in detail."

The dialogue with the opposition followed new party chief Karel Urbanek's break with the refusal of predecessor Milos Jakes to talk with critics.

Speaking after Adamec at the massive rally on the 10th successive day of protests against Communist rule, former leader Alexander Dubcek called on the party, the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies to renounce the 1968 invasion that crushed the "Prague spring" reform movement he had led.

Thousands formed a human chain leading to the Prague Castle, the nation's traditional seat of power, from Letna parade ground. Many rang bells.

Adamec, along with two senior party officials, earlier held talks with a nine-member delegation from the opposition movement Civic Forum headed by banned playwright Vaclav Havel.

The 10 days of huge protests against Communist rule — one massing 750,000 people in Prague Saturday — have forced the beleaguered authorities to make previously unimaginable concessions to the week-old Civic Forum.

Hrawi serves ultimatum on Aoun

CHTOURA (Agencies) — Newly elected President Elias Hrawi said Sunday he would replace Michel Aoun with a new army commander within 48 hours if he continues to challenge the fledgling government.

"If he persists... I must say with much regret that he will have to bear the consequences," Hrawi told reporters at his temporary headquarters in this Bekaa Valley town.

"He still is the general of the army, perhaps for no more than 48 hours, after which, if he stays, he will become an officer of this army," Hrawi said. "You will know the name of the new commander of the army by Wednesday morning."

Hrawi's statement came after parliament approved a new cabinet that pledged to extend its control over all Lebanon, including the Christian enclave controlled by Aoun.

Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir said in a sermon Sunday that war clouds were gathering over the country.

Parliament approved the new cabinet under Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, with all 43 deputies in attendance voting for the 14 men from all major sects charged with trying to end the civil war.

The vote was reported by Information Minister Edmond Rizk after the parliamentary meeting Sunday in the four-storey Park Hotel in the Bekaa Valley town of Chitoura, 37 kilometres east of Beirut.

Addressing the session before the vote, Hoss pledged his government would seek to "reestablish state authority, law and order on all Lebanon's territory" under an Arab League-brokered peace plan endorsed by parliament in Taif, Saudi Arabia, Oct. 24. The first president elected to carry out the plan, Rene Muawad, was assassinated Nov. 22 before Hoss formed a government.

Hrawi vowed to take possession of the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda, a shell-rummed building beneath which Aoun lives and works in a fortified bunker.

"Even if there is only one room left in Baabda after we put an end to the atmosphere in east Beirut, my residence will be in Baabda," he told reporters.

A Muslim deputy told Reuters the government was contemplating a direct thrust at the Baabda palace — not an invasion of the

region. He asserts that it will demonstrate that "democratisation is not hazardous to regimes." According to Anani, the fact that the government did not field a party in the elections and the openness and fairness demonstrated in the polling process contribute to this emphasis.

Assad Abdul Rahman, director-general of the Shoman Foundation, believes that "some countries in the region would not exactly be very happy about the experiment in Jordan because they are already under pressure to democratise from outside the region."

An Arab diplomat, who preferred anonymity, argued that the freedom that Jordan ex-

Sharif Zeid congratulates Salim Al Hoss

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday sent a cable to Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss congratulating him on being reappointed as prime minister.

Sharif Zeid wished Hoss success in his mission and paid tribute to the Lebanese people for their determination to pursue all efforts to achieve national reconciliation. The prime minister wished the Lebanese people success in overcoming challenges and in preserving their country's unity and sovereignty.

Parliamentary sources said Hrawi's cabinet had delayed its first overt move against Aoun at the request of unnamed mediators.

A formal decree dismissing Aoun as army commander was postponed until Tuesday.

"Until now," Hrawi told reporters, "the (Aoun) is still a general in the army and president of the military council. He may within the next 48 hours become an officer in this army."

"I will in no way allow two governments on Lebanese territory. In this case unfortunately they (Aoun's government) will have to bear the consequences."

Both sides report that Syria is concentrating troops near the divide which runs through the heart of the capital, Beirut, and encloses about a quarter of the country curving east and north.

Aoun inherited power in the enclave when the presidency was vacant for more than a year.



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tended to known political activists to run the elections with unofficial blocs "has added to nervousness in neighbouring countries" sparked by strong showing in the polls by the Muslim Brotherhood and other "Islamists."

"Some of these countries do not even allow any organised activity by the Brotherhood," the diplomat noted. The strong showing of the Islamists could encourage similar parties in other countries, which would threaten the regimes that have imposed strict curbs on them, he pointed out.

Ibrahim apparently supports this assessment. "Jordan's leaders and the Muslim Brotherhood have had a civilised relationship over the past

30-35 years," he said. "This is not the case with other regimes in the region."

Another analyst asserts that the apprehension of some countries is evidenced by the silence from leaders sceptical of democracy.

Many analysts and diplomats agree that the "firmness and honesty" of the election could very well put pressure on countries hesitant to initiate modest democratic reforms, but they also assert the change will come gradually.

"I expect the change to come gradually and it will probably take place reluctantly — one step forward, two steps backward..." Ibrahim said.

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Sudan peace talks may not produce breakthrough

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military rulers and the rebels they vowed to crush by the end of the year are due to open peace talks in the Kenyan capital Nairobi Friday.

The ruling junta is backing its diplomatic hand with a new 150,000-strong parliamentary force to back its hard pressed army and has just announced conscription for all able-bodied men.

The rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are back on the offensive and come to the talks buoyed by a string of battlefield successes.

Arab and Western diplomats said the discussions were unlikely to produce a breakthrough after six years of war at the heart of which is the question of Islamic Sharia Laws bitterly opposed by the rebels in the mainly Christian and animist south.

Sharia laws were introduced six years ago but have been dormant since 1985.

The rebels want them replaced by secular laws. Diplomats said the junta wanted Sharia in the Muslim north while the three southern regions would be

left to implement their own laws under a federal system, already rejected by the guerrillas.

The diplomats said the gap between the two sides had steadily grown since the collapse in August of the first direct talks between the junta, which came to power in a June coup, and the SPLA.

The man who brought the two together, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, was due in Khartoum where he will hold more talks with junta leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

Carter, increasingly wearing the mantle of international peace-maker, held separate talks with Bashir and SPLA leader John Garang in Khartoum and Addis Ababa.

Waiting in the wings are the international relief agencies anxious to return to the famine-threatened south before tragedy on the scale of last year's 250,000 deaths from famine and disease

Following a series of unilateral ceasefires since the coup swept the old democratic guard of Saeed Al Mahdi from power, the relief agencies were able to send 107,000 tonnes of supplies to both government and rebel-held towns and villages in the south.

But dismayed at the slow pace of peace the rebels are back on the offensive forcing the suspension of relief operations, although it is possible agreement on a limited ceasefire may result from the Garang-Bashir talks.

The diplomats said international pressure had been building up on both sides to come to an agreement soon on the question of relief.

An estimated 3.5 million southerners have so far fled the vast, undeveloped south to look for food and security elsewhere.

Bashir said last week a ceasefire must be in place before relief operations could resume in the south.

"The fact that they are going to talk again is good, but there are growing fears that if the talks collapse again all hell might break loose," said one diplomat.

Kurdish rebels kill 11 people in Turkey

ERNAK, Turkey (R) — Kurdish guerrillas killed 21 pro-Turkish Kurdish villagers, mainly women and children, in the worst such attack for two years, security sources said.

Thirteen children and six women were among those gunned down in an attack by Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas that began Friday night and lasted until Saturday on Ikiyaka, a village near the Iraqi border, the sources said Sunday.

Local sources said relatives of village guard Sadi Aykut, 45, were ordered out of their house into the snow and machine-gunned in the village in Hakkari province.

The punitive raid followed the killing of two PKK guerrillas two months ago by a village guard contingent led by Aykut. There was an 80-strong village guard in Ikiyaka at the time of the raid,

local sources said. Aykut's house was set on fire and the guerrillas escaped over the nearby Iraqi border, the sources said.

Officials from the south east regional governor's office in Diyarbakir confirmed that 21 people were killed by the PKK.

More than 2,000 people have died since the PKK launched an armed rebellion in 1984 aimed at winning an independent state for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

Turkey, fearing that its territory would be split by their aspirations for independence, denies official minority status to the Kurdish community.

The PKK raid on Ikiyaka was the bloodiest attack since five Kurdish villages were hit by guerrillas between June and August 1987. Eighty villagers were killed, including some 30 children.

Saudi plane leaves Karachi for home

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — A Saudi Arabian airliner that was grounded in Karachi for three days after the discovery of a bomb aboard, left for Riyadh Sunday after a three-day investigation.

Police said they had detained 11 Pakistani passengers for further interrogation in connection with an apparently bungled 15 million extortion attempt by the bombers.

The Boeing 747 was en route from Islamabad to Riyadh late Thursday when authorities in the Pakistani capital received a warning of bombs aboard and ordered the pilot to make an emergency landing at Karachi.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Kuwait shops for Egyptian arms

CAIRO (R) — Kuwait, which has bought Egyptian-made weapons worth \$500 million, is shopping for more, Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah said Sunday. The minister is in Cairo for his first official visit and held talks with President Hosni Mubarak. He told reporters he discussed further arms deals with his Egyptian counterpart, Youssef Sabri Abu Taleb. He did not give details. But he said "specialised committees would study the issue." Abu Taleb said Egyptian-Kuwait military cooperation covered both arms and training. Egypt, which has sent instructors to train Kuwaiti troops, is keen to boost sales from its arms industry to Arab states. Kuwait, target of several missile attacks by Iran during the 1980-88 Gulf war, has purchased the Egyptian-made Amman Air Defence System. It has also bought armoured personnel carriers. Industry sources said more than 150 have been delivered so far. Sheikh Nawaf praised Egyptian-made arms saying "they are advanced weapons that have proved their worth." The Kuwaiti minister, who arrived Saturday, is due to visit several military plants during his three-day visit.

4 Egyptian firemen die in crash

CAIRO (R) — Four Egyptian firemen on their way to tackle a blaze died when their fire-engine collided with a truck Saturday in Sharqia province, north east of Cairo, Al-Ahram newspaper said.

Carter briefs Ethiopian leader

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who is chairing talks in Nairobi seeking to end the civil war in Eritrea, flew to Addis Ababa Sunday to brief Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam on their progress. Carter chaired the first meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, in September between representatives of the Ethiopian government and the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). He flew to Nairobi a week ago for the second round of talks, which is still under way. Carter was met at the airport by State Council Vice-President Berhanu Bayih who drove with him to meet Mengistu for private discussions. Later, Carter was expected to meet representatives of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement which is fighting a civil war in the southern Sudan.

Tigray rebels intensify attacks

NAIROBI (R) — The Ethiopian government said Tigray rebels have stepped up attacks on civilians in the neighbouring provinces of Wollo and Gondar and called on the people to crush them, Addis Ababa radio reported Sunday. The radio, monitored in Nairobi, accused the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) of carrying out a campaign of "genocide, robbery, kidnapping and rustling" in the two provinces. "It is high time the Ethiopian people crushed the rebels. They have killed hundreds of people, damaged and robbed hospitals, shops, and schools, looted historic treasures, kidnapped children and stolen livestock," it added. Talks between the TPLF and the Ethiopian government, which began in Rome earlier this month, have been adjourned. The TPLF says its forces have carried out a series of attacks on government centres in the past few weeks.

Jibril denies Pan Am bombing

LONDON (AP) — Ahmed Jibril, leader of the Palestinian group suspected of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103, was quoted Sunday as offering to let police interview any member of his group, if the talk took place in a neutral country. The offer was made in an interview with the Sunday Correspondent, the London weekly newspaper, which said it met him in Syria.

North, South Yemen 'closer to unity'

ABU DHABI (R) — North and South Yemen have narrowed their differences on unification and are pressing ahead to reach agreement soon, South Yemen's minister for unity affairs said Sunday.

Rashid Mohammad Thabit told the United Arab Emirates paper Al Ittihad a joint committee was working out a formula to be made public during a Yemeni summit in Aden this week.

"Our points of convergence are now more numerous than our points of divergence. We hope to

reach an agreed framework for unity within the next two days," he was quoted as saying.

The two sides have been discussing the idea of unity since 1972 and were close to announcing a merger in 1986 when former South Yemen President Ali Nasser Mohammad was ousted in bitter factional fighting.

North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh is scheduled to meet southern leaders in Aden on Nov. 30.

Each government is studying

proposals from the other to abolish a poorly-marked frontier that cuts through a region of recently discovered oil fields.

According to the Sanaa weekly "26 September" Friday, the North's proposal calls for the people of both states to become citizens of a Yemen Republic with a federal leadership controlling defence and foreign policy.

The federation would have one currency, one capital, one flag and a supreme court.

Aden has yet to publish details of its proposals.

Group of prominent Kuwaitis lobby government for return of parliament

KUWAIT (R) — A group of prominent Kuwaitis is lobbying the government for the return of the country's once-dissolved parliament, which was dissolved in 1986, members of the group said.

Representatives of some 45 leading Kuwaitis are trying to meet the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to deliver a petition signed by thousands of Kuwaitis asking him to reconsider the dissolution, said Nasser Al Qanoor, one of the group.

Unlike other Gulf Arab states, Kuwait has had a parliament for most of the 28 years since it ceased to be a British protectorate.

So far the petitioners have been unsuccessful, Qanoor, a university professor, told Reuters.

A group representative, businessman Salah Al Marzouk, met the Minister of Emir Diwan (court) Affairs, Sheikh Khalid Al Ahmad Al Sabah, last week, some members said.

Marzouk declined comment when contacted by Reuters, but one member said: "He was told they were welcome to meet the Emir, but they could not take written documents."

The Emir dissolved parliament in July, 1986, after an upsurge in fighting in the Iran-Iraq war near

Kuwait's borders, a spate of internal sabotage and a prolonged economic recession.

Members said their lobbying group was formed to represent various walks of life, including religious groups, trade unions and businessmen. Its petition contains at least 20,000 signatures, they said.

Qanoor said the group would meet again in the coming week to discuss further moves.

Marzouk and Qanoor are two of four representatives selected by the group to deliver the petition. The others are lawyer Mubarak Al Osaime and businessman Hamad Abdul Aziz Al Saqr.

Turks debate lifting political restrictions

ISTANBUL (R) — With reform sweeping Eastern Europe, Turkey is debating whether it can safely lift political restrictions on its Communists and Islamic fundamentalists.

"Turkey cannot live in the new Europe being built with its present mentality," wrote commentator Mehmet Ali Birand in the liberal daily Milliyet.

Most Turkish political parties have urged changes in laws that set jail terms or the death penalty for advocates of Communism or class struggle and outlaw religious evangelism.

But Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut, while vowing that legal reform will be a priority for his new centre-right government, has warned: "These subjects must not be seen as simple."

Many Turks regard political relaxation as necessary to NATO-member Turkey's aspira-

tions to join the European Community.

The leaders of the Turkish United Communist Party have been held in jail since they voluntarily ended foreign exile in 1987. After 25 court hearings their case is far from over.

Children under 16 have been jailed for expressing allegedly pro-Communist ideas. A lapel pin with a hammer and sickle can be enough to land a Turk in court.

Islamic fundamentalists, seen as having far more popular appeal than leftists in mainly Muslim but secular Turkey, face tight restrictions such as a ban on Muslim headscarves being worn by women students.

"It will get nowhere with mass trials, book and film burnings," said a saying that anyone who is religious backs Islamic law."

Birand wrote.

"Enough is enough. Unchain the nation's mind. Just put an end to the comedy of 141, 142 and 163," he wrote, referring to the numbers of the penal code articles banning Communist and evangelical activities.

The Justice Ministry says it wants to formulate new laws that will please everyone. It has denied reports that jail terms will simply be replaced by fines.

Turkey's Human Rights Association estimates that 85,000 people have been tried under the three penal code articles since 1980.

Half of Turkey's 30,000 political exiles left the country because of the anti-Communist laws, and many of an estimated 3,000 political prisoners were charged under them, the left-wing Cumhuriyet daily said.

Old taboos are breaking down in Iran amid complaints by complains

Associated Press

TEHRAN — Less than a month after the death of Ayatollah Khomeini, old taboos are breaking down in Iran, and there's a heady whiff of social and religious tolerance in the air.

But President Ali Khamenei, leader of the Islamic revolution, is walking a tightrope between preserving Khomeini's legacy of Islamic values and opening the country to a new era of prosperity after a decade of turmoil.

Revolutionary radicals complain the strict Islamic decrees imposed by Khomeini, who was known as "the imam," or holy leader, are being slanted aside by Rafsanjani.

The complaints multiply as revolutionary fervour cools amid a palpable relaxation of the old shibboleths ranging from rejection of the West, particularly the United States, to a puritanical interpretation of Islamic tenets.

The liberalisation that followed Khomeini's death on June 3 and Rafsanjani's election as president on July 28 strikes visitors as soon as they arrive at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport.

Until a few months ago, arriving passengers had to stand in line for up to six hours waiting for exhausting searches by Revolu-

tionary Guards. Now, passengers with nothing to declare are waved through without delay. Departure checks also have eased.

The authorities are encouraging tourism following last year's ceasefire in the war with Iraq.

The motive is primarily to boost foreign currency earnings. But until recently, exposing revolutionary Iran to the perils of anything non-Islamic was unthinkable.

Change is visible along the broad shopping avenues of the capital, its population swollen to an estimated 11 million amid a major urban drift from the countryside.

Most men are now clean-shaven, in contrast to the prevalence of beards, traditional badge of the Islamic revolutionary, only a few months ago.

Another barometer of tolerance is observance of the "hejab," the religious dress code for women.

Before Khomeini's death, no woman dared appear in public in anything but the black chador, the tent-like cape that covers them from head to toe, leaving only the face visible.

Most middle class women have discarded the chador for shorter, button-down capes. These are worn over slacks or dresses cut

well above the calf, with only a casually draped coloured scarf covering head and shoulders and lots of hair visible.

Women are wearing cosmetics, too. In the past, they were razed by fanatical Revolutionary Guards for appearing in public with lipstick or other make-up.

Some newspaper editorials claim the growing disregard for Hejab is part of a foreign-inspired plot to undermine the revolution.

Shamsedin Vahabi, a former member of the militant "students following the imam's line" group that stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran 10 years ago, complained that "nowadays the imam's line is being threatened by liberalism under the pretext of common sense and realism."

Vahabi was speaking during a debate at Tehran's Al Zahra University to mark the 10th anniversary of the embassy seizure on Nov. 4. Radicals view that event as the revolution's seminal triumph over the "great satan" a reference to the United States.

But the heat seems to have gone out of anti-Americanism. A move by the radicals to mark the anniversary of the embassy takeover with a massive anti-American rally fizzled when only a few thousand people showed up.

With Rafsanjani encouraging foreign investment to help pay for postwar reconstruction — heresy to the radicals — Tehran's hotels are teeming with foreign technicians and business executives from Europe and Asia.

Although Rafsanjani has said he will not deal with Americans, several European subsidiaries of U.S. corporations have representatives in Tehran.

Rafsanjani, whose folksy, joke-filled discourses on television contrast with the dreary face of fundamentalism, is popular and appears to have the support of many Iranians.

After a decade of austerity and shortages since the 1979 revolution, worsened by the ravages and sacrifices of the war with Iraq that by Western estimates cost Iran 1 million dead, most people are more concerned with improving their lot than with preserving the purity of revolutionary fundamentalism.

In the still fashionable suburbs of north Tehran, where the remnants of the wealthy merchant class have maintained an opulent, if clandestine, lifestyle of liquor, caviar and bootleg Western cassettes, the changes under Rafsanjani are viewed as a harbinger of better days.

"Instead of worrying about hejab, the mullahs ought to concern

themselves more about high prices, food shortages, hoarding and profiteering," said Farahnaz Emami, a middle-aged housewife.

She was standing in line with a couple of hundred other chador-clad women outside a vegetable market to buy potatoes, which became scarce when retailers, seeking to push prices up, withdrew them from the market.

"My children are waiting at home to be fed and I've already spent eight hours in this line," she said. "If it's not potatoes, there's a shortage of sugar, or rice, all sorts of other things that disappear overnight from the market."

The Ettelaat daily said the potato shortage had developed into "a test of strength between the government and the middlemen."

Iran's security agencies should go after the hoarders and their secret warehouses instead of hunting foreign spies, the daily said.

Basic food items and some other commodities are rationed and heavily subsidised, ensuring that at least some necessities are available at reasonable prices.

Additional supplies can be had at vastly inflated prices on the "open market," an officially tolerated black market, but that is beyond the reach of many Iranians.

Shops are well stocked following the lifting of import restrictions. The cost of some of these goods has been reduced by as much as one-third because of more liberal exchange controls.

But the average wage is less than the equivalent of \$200 a month and many Iranians with families are forced to moonlight with second and third jobs to make ends meet.

Inflation is officially pegged at 30 per cent. But diplomats estimate it is more than double that.

In the Majlis, Iran's 270-seat parliament, deputy Abutaleb Mahmoudi declared recently that "the experience of the past 10 years has made it clear that state control of the economy resulted in nothing but considerable losses, hardship for the poor people and rampant inflation."

"One should not talk about the revolution being lost as soon as there is discussion about using foreign resources for modernisation and investment," he said.

The loss from the operation of our factories below capacity and delaying reconstruction will be considerably worse than the disadvantages of utilising foreign resources."

Rafsanjani has admitted that Iran's nationalised industries are running at only 30 per cent of capacity because of shortages of

raw materials and inefficient management.

But there is another imperative behind the drive to revive the sagging economy, and fast.

Iran's population is mushrooming. The birth rate is around 3.5 per cent a year, one of the highest in the world.

By the year 2,010, its population will have doubled from its present level to 140 million and economic decisions must be made now to avoid catastrophe 20 years hence.

Meanwhile, the pressures on Rafsanjani are mounting.

"After 10 years of privatisation, the people are not prepared to wait for long. They want quick results," said a prominent merchant in his office in Tehran's labyrinthine bazaar.

"The general trend right now is in favour of Rafsanjani. If he fails to deliver, there will be a change," said the merchant, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Failure to revive the economy within the next year or two "will be exploited to the full by the radicals," he warned.

Right now, the radicals have been eclipsed by Rafsanjani and his ally, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who pushed through constitutional reforms that give the presidency unprecedented power. Khamenei succeeded.

Khomeini after the 83-member Assembly of Experts ruled that the republic's religious leader did not have to be a "Marja' Al Taqlid," or "source of emulation," as Khomeini was.

That has opened the door to a more secular leadership, a "constitutional theocracy," as one diplomat put it.

Last month Rafsanjani limited that Iran might be willing to help free Western hostages held by pro-Iranian Muslims in Lebanon. But he had to back off, publicly at least, a few days later under pressure from the radicals who warned he was straying too far from Khomeini's dictums.

The Ettelaat daily said in a recent editorial that "the decision-making process... is moving toward commitment to pragmatism and away from miscalculated extremism."

But the radical Union of Islamic Student Societies warned: "We give an ultimatum to the press in general, and Ettelaat in particular, that they must not give a free hand to those who are wittingly or unwittingly promoting the U.S. line." "Otherwise we shall ourselves exercise the right to take direct action against the insults to the imam's line."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
09:00	Koran
09:30	Live transmission "Opening of the first ordinary Parliamentary session - speech from the throne"
10:30	Koran
10:40	Programme review
10:45	Children programmes
10:50	News summary in Arabic
10:55	World News
11:00	Local programmes
11:05	Programme review
11:10	News in Arabic
11:15	Arabic series
11:20	Local programmes
11:25	Local programmes
11:30	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:30	Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:40	L'Appart
18:45	7 cws in French
18:50	Weekly Sport magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:30	Golden Girls
21:10	Changement Charlie
21:15	News in English
21:20	News in Arabic
JORDAN TIMES	
06:00	Fair
06:10	(Sunrise) Data

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

expected. Winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and sea calm.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	9/22
Aqaba	17/22
Deir	7/23
Jordan Valley	16/26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Jamil Maraga	776046
Dr. Tayseer Al Sa'adi	777636
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shaer	791405
Dr. Walid Salamah	779977
First pharmacy	661912
Forwards pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nimrooth pharmacy	626762
Al Solam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644943
Shameisani pharmacy	637660

IREDD:	
Dr. Abdul Karim Al Abweh	(—)
Al Shaer pharmacy	983238

ZARQA:	
Dr. Maysoon Hanna	(—)
Khalaf pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	811228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	610500
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Orchestra Hall	610230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight information	08-3200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-3200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Khalil Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalil Maternity, J. Ann	642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann.	624421/2
Isabel Amman Maternity	642362
Madina, J. Amman	636140
Palatine, Shmeisani	664714
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musader Hospital	687227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/57
Al-Abdi, Abdali	664164/6
Islamic, Al-Muhajireen	777101/3
Al-Beshtir, J. Ashrafieh	775112/6
Acrey, Madina	891511/5
Queen Alia Hospital	682405/0
Amal Hospital	674135
ZARQA:	
Qadri Gov. Hospital	(09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)98732

IREDD:	
Queen Banna Hospital	(02)275535
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:05	Baghdad (RJ)
09:00	Damascus (RJ)
09:00	Sanaa (RJ)
09:30	Cairo (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:00	Laraca (RJ)
16:15	Cairo (RJ)
16:15	Aqaba (RJ)

South development meeting calls for wider participation

KARAK (J.T.) — A two-day symposium on the development of the south concluded here Sunday with adoption of several recommendations aimed at involving both the private and public sectors in developing the southern region of Jordan.

The symposium, organised by the Ministry of Planning, was officially opened Saturday by Planning Minister Ziad Fariz, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Fariz said Saturday that in his opening address, the socio-economic development of the south is bound to contribute to reducing total unemployment in Jordan, cutting the trade deficit and improving the balance of payments. Fariz noted that the south received the lion's share in the five-year development plan's investments (1986-1991). He said that JD 1,000 million were allocated to investment projects in the south region, one third of the Kingdom's investments.

They urged setting up job-generating projects to help people in the region, in order to improve the living conditions of the people there.

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Abdul Salam Majali appointed NMI head

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, former president of the University of Jordan and adviser to His Majesty King Hussein, has been appointed director general of the National Medical Institution (NMI) to succeed Dr. Daoud Hanania, who was appointed member of the Upper House of Parliament, according to a Royal Decree issued Sunday.

Another decree appointed Major-General Mustafa Abdul Karim Al Qaisi as director general of the General Intelligence Department to succeed Tareq Alaidin, who named member of the Upper House. Majali and Qaisi will assume their new posts immediately.



Dr. Abdul Salam Majali

King Hussein sent a message earlier to Hanania praising his efforts as the leading Jordanian cardiac surgeon and urging him to continue his endeavour at the Queen Alia Heart Centre and the NMI in addition to his post as member of the Upper House of Parliament. Khaled Tarawneh, head of the civil defence department, Alaidin and Hanania were retired earlier from service after being appointed members of the Upper House.

Constitutionally, Upper House members cannot function as government officials or serve in the Armed Forces. They can only serve as Cabinet ministers or prime minister.

Jordan to participate in Arab dentist talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from Jordan is taking part in a general meeting of Arab dentists is due to open in Baghdad Tuesday with the participation also of other Arab countries.

Scientific topics related to dentistry and ways for protecting dentures from diseases as well as aspects of dental surgery will be among the subjects to be taken up by the participants, according to Dr. Ishaq Al Khairi, who left Amman Sunday at the head of the Jordanian delegation.

Khairi said in a departure statement that he and the Jordanian delegation, which represents the Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA), will attend a general meeting by dentists from the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries which will open in the Iraqi capital Monday.

This ACC meeting will discuss exchanges of expertise between Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen and cooperation in different aspects of dental science. There will also be a meeting in Baghdad during the conference by the executive bureau of the higher council of the Arab Dentists Federation attended by members of dental associations in the ACC states, Khairi added.

The federation meeting will review a report by its secretary-general outlining Arab dentists' activities during 1989 at the regional and international level as well as their future plans.

The report, he said, will also present details about the work of the federation's different committees, including one on dentists to Arab dentists in occupied Palestine.

Jordanian leader of Afghan resistance killed in car blast

By Suhair Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian who adopted the cause of the Afghan Mujahideen and fought on their side for the past several years was killed last week in a car bomb explosion in the northeastern Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Professor Abdullah Azzam and two of his five children were killed when a bomb planted in their car exploded while they were on their way home after performing Friday prayers, according to reports from Pakistan.

It was not clear from first reports that why a Jordanian was targeted in the attack until an obituary appeared in local newspapers Saturday paying tribute to Azzam's support for the Mujahideen and their cause. The advertisement was inserted by the Muslim Brotherhood.

The brotherhood, an ardent supporter of the Afghan resistance movement, which is fighting the Communist government in Kabul, described Azzam "as a firm believer and vigorous fighter." Azzam, a professor who used to teach Islamic law at Pakistani universities, also edited a magazine called "Jihad" which served as a conduit for the Afghan rebel movement to express their views, according to Yousef Al Atham, a family friend from Ma'an.

Atham, a deputy-elect from Ma'an but not a declared member of the Brotherhood, condemned the attack on Azzam and said "whoever was behind the crime is an enemy of the Afghan freedom fighters."

Azzam headed a unit of about 1,200 to 1,300 Arab youth who fought on the side of the Afghan rebels. The unit, known as "the Arab Muslim Mujahideen to liberate Afghanistan," mainly composed of volunteers from some of the Gulf states as well as some from the Maghreb countries. But, according to Atham, the group "depended solely on individual contributions and donations and was not funded by or affiliated with any country, government or movement."

The aim of the group, Atham said, "is to establish Muslim rule in Afghanistan with the participation of all other Islamic factions in the country."

Azzam frequently visited Arab and other Islamic countries to raise funds for his movement, and crowned his commitment to the cause by moving his entire family to Peshawar. His mother died while visiting him in the Pakistani city bordering Afghanistan one year ago.

Azzam took part in many operations against the Red Army until its complete withdrawal from Afghanistan earlier this year after a 10-year intervention aimed at propping up the Communist government in Kabul.

Azzam was among the leaders of Palestinian resistance forces in Jordan fighting against the Israeli occupation of Palestine during the 1960s. He personally took part in many operations across the demarcation line against the Israeli army, according to Atham.

Azzam and his two children were buried in Peshawar.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

Crown Prince underlines need for Arab self-reliance

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday that it was time for the Arabs to assume the task of planning their countries development by themselves rather than depending on foreigners. Arab countries through their experts and scientists, can benefit from various studies on the Arab world in their endeavours to plan development for their future generations, the Prince said at a meeting with Usama Al Faqih, director-general of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) who is now on a visit to Jordan for talks with officials at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the Jordanian government.

The Crown Prince referred to the question of Arab food security and noted that the Arab World imports a large part of its needs from foreign sources. Arab countries ought to launch close cooperation in a bid to reduce the cost of imports on the one hand and to coordinate matters in such a way as to ensure food security for the Arab World on the other, the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan and Faqih discussed the role of the AMF in promoting Arab economies and cooperation between the Jordanian government and (AMF) in monetary affairs.

Faqih briefed the Crown Prince on the AMF's objectives and programmes to support inter-Arab trade cooperation and in providing funds to finance these operations.

The meeting, held at the Royal Court, was attended by CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh held talks with Faqih Saturday. Nabulsi also held a separate round of discussions with the AMF director-general.



Outgoing Pakistani ambassador honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred on Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Saghir Hussein Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order on the occasion of the termination of the ambassador's tour of duty in Jordan.

The medal was presented to the ambassador by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi at a lunch hosted at the Plaza Hotel in Amman in honour of the outgoing ambassador.

In a brief speech, Qasbi paid tribute to the ambassador for his efforts to bolster Jordanian-Pakistani relations in all fields. Senior foreign ministry officials and several heads of diplomatic missions were present at the lunch.

Ambassador and Mrs. Sadiga Saghir Hussein hosted a reception at their residence Sunday evening to mark the occasion of their departure from Jordan. It was attended by senior government officials, diplomats and Jordanians as well as Pakistanis living in Jordan.

UNDP helps agriculture education

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will help the University of Jordan raise the standard of training of agriculture students by providing equipment and assigning specialists to work at the Faculty of Agriculture, in accordance with an agreement signed here Sunday.

The agreement stipulates that UNDP will provide experts and equipment at an estimated cost of \$444,000 while the university will provide the rest of the \$750,000 project. The project aims to train students of the first university year on the handling and maintaining equipment and ways to employ modern technology.

According to the agreement, UNDP-assigned experts will help work out a programme to direct Jordanian farmers.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and UNDP Resident Representative in Jordan Ali Atiq.

Jordan turns a new leaf

(Continued from page 1)

their party's decision to support Mubadeen are expected to cast blank ballots rather than vote for their party's choice. This number will not be made up in the number of independents who will opt to vote for Mubadeen, such as Thounan Hindawi, and may be Deeb Marji and others, and will not add up to an absolute majority.

In the second round the winner of the race will be determined by two factors: the number of blank

ballots and some "democratic bloc" members who were originally opposed voting for Arar decide at the last minute to go by a majority decision, which is scuttled in favour of Arar when he is pitted against Mubadeen.

The possibility of the bloc opting to vote for Mubadeen from the first round is almost nil and those of the bloc who vote for Shabbat in the first round and are against alliance with Arar even in the second round are expected to cast blank ballots which in essence mean a decision against Mubadeen.

Arar, in view of the different factors at work in the race for speakership, comes out as the winner of the race and although no major surprises in today's balloting is expected this prediction may take a complete turn today when the representatives cast their ballots since intense lobbying and consultations were continuing late into Sunday night among the deputies-elect and the pot may boil over and spill a completely unexpected dish.

Arab meeting postponed

(Continued from page 1)

attend Sunday's meeting. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo is the main peace initiative under discussion and would have dominated the Tunis meeting.

Arab diplomats said that, contrary to earlier PLO reports, the PLO has not made a final response to the Baker proposals. PLO Executive Committee member Jamal Sourani went to

Cairo earlier this week for further consultations on the response with the Egyptians, who are acting both as the PLO's negotiating consultants and intermediaries with Washington, they said.

Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said last Wednesday the answer Sourani took to Cairo amounted to rejection of Baker's proposals.

Hrawi serves ultimatum

(Continued from page 1)

state of partition and all deviations from law and legitimacy," it said.

Commenting on Hrawi's remarks, Aoun said: "We are confronting a decision which was not taken by a person in his right mind but by a person who has lost his mind."

Aoun said troops were massing

near his defence lines but they were insufficient to launch an offensive.

Aoun, who says he will negotiate only with Syria to resolve the crisis in Lebanon, said he would not talk to Hrawi.

"Syria is the key. That is why we refuse to negotiate with masks. Elias Hrawi is a mask for the Syrian regime," he said.

Palestinians on patrol

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians have killed 150 of their fellow Arabs on such charges during the 23-month Palestinian uprising. The toll includes at least 23 murders in Nabulus, which with 120,000 population is the West Bank's largest city.

The army has blamed the Red Eagles, loosely affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, for at least nine of the slayings.

In some cases Palestinians were tortured before they were shot dead and their bodies were displayed in public as a warning to local residents of the penalty for cooperation with Israel, the army said.

On Nov. 9, soldiers burst into a Nabulus house where the Red Eagles were believed hiding, gunning down an armed Palestinian youth who was described as a commander of the group and arresting five others, the military said.

But Palestinian reporters in Nabulus say the army raid did not stop the group, and their members and the Black Panthers have been seen patrolling without masks, with at least one youth carrying a bulky bag he said contained an M-16 assault rifle.

Last Thursday, a lone man approached a 35-year-old woman shopping in a busy casbah street and shot her in the head in full view of dozens of shoppers. Later, members of the Black Panthers threatened to carry out further slayings of collaborators.

Saturday, the group kidnapped two Palestinians from the nearby Balata refugee camp and only released them after a severe beating, Arab reporters said.

The Black Panthers were initially affiliated with Fatah, but they have ignored direct radio messages from the Palestine Liberation Organisation to stop the killings unless they have specific orders.

Neither group wears a uniform, but the Black Panthers sport silver necklaces saying "Al Fahd Al Aswad," Arabic for "Black Panther," and the Red Eagles drape a red Palestinian headscarf around their shoulders.

The Jordanian experiment

(Continued from page 1)

Political science Professor Kamel Abu Jaber shares the opinion. "If change does come then it will be very slow," he said.

Anani expects countries neighbouring Jordan as well as the Gulf Arab states to "wait and see what happens in Jordan before taking any step."

"Democracy is contagious but the change must come from within and Jordan's election is a catalyst," said the Arab diplomat. "Arab countries which are reluctant to lessen their grip on power and allow for participation are apprehensive to say the least," he added.

Rahman thinks the speed of reform in these countries will depend on the political behaviour of their indigenous population.

One of the most positive aspects of the Jordanian experiment is the challenge it poses to Israel's claim as the "only living democracy in West Asia," according to analyst Musa Keilani, a former Jordanian ambassador.

"Israel is no longer able to maintain its claim as the exclusive oasis for democracy in the region," Keilani said. "Now Jordan is projecting a new image of sober democracy not tarnished by ruthless occupation and oppressive practices. The Kingdom's image reflects idealistically to compare with Israel's image as an occupation force claiming to be democratic."

However, he added, "In Jordan the step has to culminate — permission for political parties to operate and for a freer press."

Global trend

Most analysts agree that it is not only the givens in the Arab World and Jordan that are or will be influential in the democratisation process in Arab countries. They view pluralism in Jordan and other Arab countries as part of an overall trend in the world.

The trend towards pluralism and democracy in Eastern Europe and the Third World has also been accelerated because there is no longer a "good example of one-party rule projected to the Third World," according to Ibrahim.

"There is a feeling that it is not suitable to rule people through one elite or one party no matter how good the party is," he said.

Ibrahim bases his assessment on his observations on the events that swept Algeria in 1988 after being under one-party rule since independence. Prompted by widespread riots sparked by economic difficulties, which gave way to political demands, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid introduced reforms to end 27 years of one-party politics. A new constitution was adopted February 1988 guaranteeing free multi-party elections and freedom of speech and assembly. At least seven opposition political parties, ranging from communists to Islamists, were legalised in Algeria since September, vying for power with Benjedid's National Liberation Front (FLN).

In this slow approach to democracy scenario, Ibrahim also poses two sub-scenarios.

One is where the ruler introduces reforms prior to a popular upheaval. The second scenario is where reforms are initiated as a result of popular upheaval such as Algeria. But Ibrahim maintains that whatever scenario occurs in these countries it will still be slow.

Ibrahim sums up his assessment of what is in store for the future of leaders in the Arab World. "If the ruler is smart, then he should take the initiative. If he is half-smart, when signs are there, he would accommodate them like Chadli Benjedid. If he is dumb, he will be overtaken by events. Alia Numeiri (Jafar Numeiri of Sudan)."

Rahman believes Jordan's elections will contribute to the pressure already on some countries by the international liberalisation phenomenon. "It would add to the external factors pushing democratisation," he said.

A European diplomat argues that "democracy is exportable" and what happened in Eastern Europe can be a lesson to autocratic regimes elsewhere. "I realise there are many differences between the two regions but once one country starts on the path, others are more encouraged to follow." He asserts that people everywhere, including in the Middle East, are seeking ways to change the one-party rule system and participate in the decision-making process.

Ibrahim, who is more optimistic than the other Arab analysts interviewed, believes that the 1990s "is going to be the decade of democratisation in the Arab World."

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: The governorates of Tafleeh and Maan in southern Jordan Sunday held celebrations marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. Several seminars and lectures were held and a book exhibition was opened. Street marches were staged by scouts and students. An art exhibition was opened at Hawara College near Irbid by Dr. Ahmad Bashairah, the Ministry of Higher Education's secretary-general. The exhibition opening was followed by sports activities, which included a volleyball match (Petra).

FIRMS DEALING WITH ISRAEL BANNED: The Finance Ministry has banned dealing with 85 foreign companies after discovering they deal with Israel in violation of the unified Arab Boycott Law. The ministry also lifted the ban imposed on 46 foreign companies which corrected their policies to conform with the provisions of the Arab Boycott Law (Petra).

PRICE MANIPULATORS FINED: The military governor Sunday endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing Mustafa Mohammad Yousef Al Taher and Habis Al Fakhour to a fine of JD 300 each after finding them guilty of manipulating prices of foodstuffs (Petra).

TOUR OPERATORS VISIT JORDAN: A group of tour operators and agents of tourist and travel agencies from different countries visited Jordan and toured Petra, Jerash and other archaeological sites. The tour was organised by the Royal Jordanian in cooperation with the Amman Plaza Hotel in a bid to promote tourism in the Kingdom (J.T.).

SWEDEN-MIDDLE EAST TIES: Sweden's Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonsback Sunday visited the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) where he delivered a lecture entitled "Sweden and the Middle East." The ambassador reviewed Sweden's relations with Jordan in various fields and paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for his continued efforts for peace at the regional and international levels. (Petra).

ROMANIA PRESENTS BOOKS: The Romanian embassy Sunday presented the University of Jordan with a collection of books on engineering, history, literature and architecture. The 120 publications were presented to Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra, the university's president, by Romanian Ambassador to Jordan Dimitrie Stancu (J.T.).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ An art exhibition by Awwar Haddadin at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Book exhibition at the University of Yarmouk.
- ★ A Gaze Tree exhibition, by "Latifah Abu Hamdan" at 5:00 p.m. at the Exhibition Hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.

BAZAAR

- ★ Charity bazaar on productive projects at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

FILMS

- ★ Italian film: Un bellissimo Novembre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Ghazi Sami lectures on the National Strategy for the Conservation of Archaeology and Cultural Resources in Jordan, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre for Oriental Research.

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New era begins

TODAY His Majesty King Hussein opens the first session of the new Jordanian Parliament with a speech from the throne outlining the Kingdom's future course. The 11th Parliament will in due course respond to the Royal speech and thus a new era of parliamentary life in the country will be ushered with vigour. The composition of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Parliament is projected to introduce a fresh sense of dynamism to the new legislature where many pressing issues will be debated and agreed or disagreed upon. The first challenge facing the new parliamentarians, whether they are situated in the Upper or Lower House, will of course come from the Royal speech, which will require much deliberations before an adequate reply can be formulated and delivered. And the first test that the new Parliament will undertake will be how parliamentarians debate the issues presented to them by the speech from the throne.

There are many new elements and trends in the Lower House that, hopefully, may end up clashing with one another in an acrimonious manner. The composition of the Upper House on the other hand is marked by homogeneity among its members in political thought as well as socio-economic perspectives. How the heterogeneity of the Lower House will cope with the homogeneity of the Upper House and vice versa is now uppermost on the minds of Jordanians. In particular what Jordanians wish to gauge very carefully is whether an elected House performs better than a chosen one in servicing the needs of the people and responding to their yearnings and aspirations.

But be that as it may, the country is once again on the threshold of a new start in parliamentary life. To be sure, the history of parliamentary life in the Kingdom is relatively long and goes back four decades, marked with a string of ups and downs and spells of interruptions. This new 11th Parliament has many critical subjects on its hands of which bread and butter issues are expected to be accorded high priority. Consideration of the events and circumstances that led to the economic and fiscal crisis in the country, including the investigation of past malpractices in the running of the economy are also expected to draw heated debates from the four corners of the Lower House. Many voices from within the Lower House will be calling for accountability for past and future actions of the government to prevent a repetition of abuses of the past. Others may raise other vital issues ranging from the educational system of the country to foreign policy pursuits. All in all the sessions of the new Parliament are projected to be very lively and exciting ones filled with hope that the future of the country will be as always bright and promising.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday praised the Lebanese deputies for succeeding in electing a president and proving to the world that the Lebanese people are determined to rise above the hatred and above the side issues in order to reach a national reconciliation and a permanent peace. The paper said Jordan and the majority of nations have expressed their deep satisfaction with the election of Hrawi who appointed a new government to deal with the situation and to resume the task begun by the late president. Peace-loving nations and friendly countries do wish the new president success in his mission and in bringing about reconciliation among the warring factions of his country with the help of the Arab League and Arab leaders, said the paper. But it added, if the peace efforts are to succeed, the Lebanese people ought to place all their weight behind their new leader and help him reach a peaceful settlement with Michel Aoun so that a quick and peaceful end can be found for the dispute. Therefore, said the paper, it is essential that the Arab League mediation committee maintain its role in Lebanon and help its people transcend their tragedies, sufferings and ordeal and live in peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic paper reminds parliament members who hold their first meeting Monday of the pledges they took before the electorate and the numerous challenges confronting them. The deputies are faced with such questions as public freedoms, culture and information and the various legislations enacted before the general election among other things, says Abdul Rahim Omar. The deputies are also required to find solutions for the country's economic problems, the question of unemployment and others which are on the mind of all people. All the same time the writer blames those citizens who he says failed to turn out to vote on election day and who watch helplessly now if things do not turn out right for them in the Lower House of Parliament. However, he says, the constitution has not changed, and the speech from the throne Monday will no doubt reaffirm its provisions calling on all deputies to adhere strictly to the constitution which serves as an umbrella for all legislations. The writer says that with the resumption of parliament's role, one can rest assured that the Kingdom's constitution, enacted four decades ago, will reign supreme and maintain the momentum for the country's march towards progress and prosperity.

With the election of Elias Hrawi as president of Lebanon, the way is now paved for the Lebanese to embark on meaningful action to remove all obstacles that impede a general reconciliation, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily newspaper Sunday. The paper said that the Lebanese members of parliament who succeeded in electing a president, shortly after the assassination of Muawad, are no doubt able to remove all the elements of fear and all the causes of dissension that had divided the nation over the past 15 years. The paper said that the deputies who represent the nation can and should preserve Lebanon's sovereignty and unity, and enable the nation to resume its Arab role in the Middle East. The paper said that Jordan's parliament members should take a lesson from the consequences of the Lebanese civil war and the victory of the Lebanese parliament in arriving at a consensus designed to bring about reconciliation and peace to their country. Jordanian parliament members who meet in Amman Monday, said the paper, ought to take a good lesson from the Lebanese in matters related to safeguarding their country's unity and maintain the momentum of progress.

Weekly Political Pulse

Want freedom of press, are you prepared?

By Waleed Sadi

IF THERE was ever an issue on which all the candidates for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections had agreed it was certainly the call for the freedom of the press. Yet when the winners and losers among them are pressed for a definition of the concept of the freedom of the press, one readily discovers that there is a wide divergence of views among them on the subject. As a matter of fact the tug-of-war between the various Jordanian perspectives on the definition of the freedom of the press reached a climax when the case of Toujan Faisal loomed in the horizon prior to the casting of the ballots. What I suspect is that in any given country, where there is no cultural base for tolerance of different views and ideas, the concept of the freedom of the press would encounter an uphill battle that may suffocate its spirit. Accordingly, in societies where orthodoxy is nurtured and promoted by the educational system right from the word go, it would be most improbable to succeed in making an opening for venting conflicting views and ideas. The emerging picture from such a situation is that whereas governments may succeed in stifling the freedom of the press in some manner, the ill-prepared public could very well end up being the main enemy of the press with regard to the remaining intellectual pursuits. To be sure one sees pockets of resistance to the meaningful exercise of the freedom of thought even among the so-called intelligentsia who pretend that they have a monopoly on sound interpretation of all subjects under the sun to the extent that some of them would view ideas contrary to their own as either heresy, sacrilegious, reactionary, communist or even as acts of treason.

A case in point that comes in mind occurred in the heart of America and at the seat of one of the most prestigious centres for

higher education there, the University of Chicago. Right in the midst of the era of the late U.S. senator Joseph McCarthy and his infamous crusade against liberalism in his country in the fifties, which he and his supporters had confused with Communism, the University of Chicago began to introduce courses on Communism. When questioned about the veracity of the news reports that the university is educating its students on the "perfidious" subject of Communism, the chancellor of the university then responded to the public outcry by the following pertinent words: "Yes the university is teaching courses on Communism and it is also teaching courses on cancer at the medical school!" Those were the days when Darwinism was prevented from being taught in schools and institutions of higher learning as outrageous deviation from the teachings of the Bible.

The moral of the story is that while everybody uses governments as an easy target and accuses them as being the principal obstacle to the exercise of the freedom of the press, no one bothers to ask whether the public is truly prepared to indulge in the practice of the freedom of thought and the exercise of the freedom of the press. To be more specific, have the existing generations of Arabs been receiving the kind of education that prepares them to tolerate ideas and thoughts that are diametrically opposed to their own? Or, are they still in that kind of frame of mind that makes them fast on the draw to accuse their opponents in thought as either treacherous, reactionary, communist or sacrilegious? The upshot of all this is that the seekers of the freedom of the press must not only ask their respective governments for more freedom of the press but also ask themselves if they are prepared to tolerate ideas and views that may be

repugnant to their own.

On the other hand it could be argued with equal force, notwithstanding all the shortcomings that may still exist in the 'cultures of nations belonging to the developing countries, that the societies of such countries must begin the process of learning the art of freedom of thought and press by taking that very first step in that direction. People, it is often pointed out, may at the outset appear to be shocked by unorthodox and untraditional views but that they would get used to opposing thoughts soon enough. There is no escape from the trials and tribulations of the learning process and a beginning must be made to get the people in question accustomed to react to different views in a tolerant way if not in a positive way. The principal objective must be at all times to avoid hysterical responses or emotional outbursts that could nip freedom of thought and press in the bud. And whatever one's thoughts are on the generic subject of the freedom of the press, it is indeed a heavy responsibility to even attempt to delineate its boundaries. The classical concern would always be where does freedom of the press begin and where does it end. And what is even more awesome is to determine who shall be the judge of this.

As for us here in Jordan and during this new era of expanded democracy, when the call for freedom of the press is on the tip of the tongue of so many of us, it is a propitious occasion to ask ourselves before anything else about our own threshold of tolerance for thoughts and ideas that may run counter to our own. Once we have satisfied ourselves with our answers, we may then direct our concern to our government and ask of it what we accept for ourselves.

Exotic array of candidates in 'fist-fight' democracy

By John Pomfret
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Criminals, ex-kings and family clans are vying for power as the world's largest democracy engages in a raucous display of sometimes-violent politics in national elections that ended Sunday.

"The election is like a Hindu god," said Bhabani Sen Gupta, a noted political commentator. "It has many arms, hands and heads. It is an angry beast."

A man suspected of masterminding the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is running for parliament from a jail cell. He's considered a shoo-in.

The brother of the man who killed Mohandas K. Gandhi, the leader of India's nonviolent freedom struggle, also wants a seat. He was imprisoned for 18 years for his part in the killing.

One former maharajah, or king, supervises a campaign from the luxurious confines of his riverside palace. Another has discarded his natty suits for home-spun cottons to be closer to the people.

Pundits say this year's crop of candidates is the strangest since India won independence from Britain in 1947. It is no coincidence, they say, that the campaign is one of India's most violent and poses the sharpest challenge to the Congress Party, which has governed India for 40 of the past 42 years. More than 130 people have died since the race began.

The list of candidates, they say, highlights two important trends in Indian politics: The growth of nepotism and the increasing role

of crooks.

"It's a combination of fist-fight democracy and a family business," Sen Gupta said. "The younger generation does the shooting while their parents run for office."

Criminals began to play a major role in Indian politics in the 1960s when the leaders of India's independence movement were replaced by a new breed of politician.

The new generation concentrated on strengthening local power bases. To do this, thugs, or goondas in Hindi, were useful in collecting such funds, intimidating voters and slugging it out with the other side.

"An average goonda is equal to 1,000 votes, and a class-one goonda can be worth 10,000 votes, sometimes more," Yashwant Sinha spokesman for the opposition Janata Dal Party, said in an interview.

During her two terms in office, Mrs. Gandhi challenged political bosses, appointing allies from New Delhi to important posts in the states. But the result was not what she intended, political scientist Ashis Nandy said.

As the power of local bosses waned, more and more criminals began running against their former masters.

In three of the most populous states, at least 50 candidates for parliament or state legislatures are under investigation for crimes ranging from theft to murder. These candidates span the ideological spectrum.

Sikh radicals, seeking to create a new nation called Khalistan in northern Punjab state, have killed about 7,500 people in the last four years. This year some of the

radicals are running for office.

Atindarpal Singh, alleged chief of the Khalistan liberation organization and the suspected mastermind of Mrs. Gandhi's assassination, is running for a parliament seat from the jail where he awaits trial for a series of lethal bombings in New Delhi. Joining him on the ballot is Bimal Khalsa, widow of one of Mrs. Gandhi's killers, Beant Singh, who was killed on the spot by other security men.

Both Atindarpal Singh and Mrs. Khalsa are favoured to win.

"This is a step forward," Sen Gupta said. "They will contribute more to society roaming the halls of government than they would roaming the hills of Punjab, killing innocent farmers." Families are also getting into the political act.

Three members of the Nehru-Gandhi family — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, his estranged sister-in-law Maneka Gandhi, and his estranged cousin Arun Nehru — are running for parliament seats. Only the prime minister is running on the Congress ticket.

Their dynasty was started by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister and father of Indira Gandhi.

Other prominent families include the Scindia clan, who used to be the kings and queens of Gwalior in central India. Royal titles were abolished in 1971.

Vijaya Raju Scindia, who is still known as the rajmata, or queen mother, and her son Madhav Rao Scindia are running for parliament in adjoining districts. The mother is running for an opposition party, while the son is running for the Congress Party.

U.S. right wants German unification on summit agenda

By Carol Giacomo

Reuters

WASHINGTON — President George Bush is under pressure from leading U.S. conservatives to make German reunification a central topic of his talks off Malta next month with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based right-wing think tank which promotes a tough line towards Moscow, wants him to take the lead in planning Germany's future.

The private foundation also proposes a peace treaty to end the cold war.

"We've won the damn cold war," Burton Yale Pines, Heritage Foundation senior vice-president, told Reuters.

Since East Germany opened its border with West Germany this month, Bush and his aides have played down the prospect of German reunification, saying it is a goal but a long-term one.

Eastern Europe is expected to be a key topic at the Shipboard summit on December 2 and 3 but the Americans insist that it should produce no deals over Europe's future.

The breaking down of the iron curtain and the political changes in East Germany have made Soviet leaders and some Europeans worry about moves towards a reunited German nation.

Debate on the subject has been lively in the United States. Some

analysts, former secretary of state Henry Kissinger among them, believe reunification is inevitable.

Others disagree. These include former national security official Paul Nitze and Jerry Hough, professor at Duke University in North Carolina.

In Hough's view, reunification can be decided only by the Germans themselves. But will they or won't they? "My guess is they don't know," he said.

Short of reunification, two other possibilities are being discussed in Washington.

One is a confederation in which each country keeps some functions separate.

Under the other, they would remain apart with economic integration blurring political and military divisions.

Assistant Secretary of State Raymond Seitz said last week the administration has no preference, telling reporters: "The U.S. government has no formula, has no prescriptions for this issue."

He and other officials have made it clear that Bush intends to follow the lead of his ally West Germany in dealing with the reunification issue, which raises fears of revived German military power.

Pines and others argue that U.S. passivity would surrender to Moscow the initiative in the debate over Europe's future.

A divided Germany is an anomaly and Washington "has got to take the lead in coming up with a blueprint that makes sense... for a German reunification that does not create new

tensions or instabilities in Europe," Pines said.

"We're telling Bush to bring this up at Malta," he added.

Pines points out that the United States, as opposed to Europe, has nothing to fear from reunification.

According to the Heritage Foundation, U.S. policy makers risk being outflanked by Gorbachev who could well come up with a bold proposal for the future of Germany and Europe, putting the West on the defensive.

It proposed a seven-step policy beginning with free elections and an end to Communist Party rule in East Germany and leading to a German confederation.

This alternative, in which the two states merge domestic functions but keep their foreign and defence policies separate, would allow West Germany to remain a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

East Germany would be a neutral zone with no Soviet troops on its territory or could stay in the Warsaw Pact with a token Soviet military presence.

Some senior U.S. officials are said to be interested in this proposal but there is no sign that it is receiving serious consideration.

Officials have focused publicly on how to strengthen NATO's future political role to maintain security in Europe.

The U.S. administration seems to believe the alliance should be the West's pivot but many experts say the European Community is the rising star.

Wars rage around the world despite detente

By William C. Hilday
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Improving U.S.-Soviet relations haven't brought peace to the world's jungles, deserts and mountains, where guerrilla armies are fighting to overthrow old governments and create new nations.

As 1989 drew to a close, U.S.-Soviet relations had grown so warm that some officials and analysts were declaring the cold war had ended.

But in many Third World countries, where the two superpowers waged much of the cold war by choosing sides and bankrolling their proxies, peace remained elusive.

"With a few exceptions, the emergence of detente in U.S.-Soviet relations will have relatively little impact on conflict in the Third World or in other areas," said Stephen Walt, an associate professor of political science at the University of Chicago.

"I don't think it's going to do much to resolve indigenous conflicts because the causes of them don't have much to do with the superpowers."

The fact that the superpowers are getting out of Third World conflicts, may reduce the access of resistance movements to high-powered military weaponry at free or greatly reduced prices. But it's not going to change the fact that there are significant political conflicts there," Walt said.

And without direct superpower involvement, Walt contends, there likely will be less attention focused on regional wars and as a result, less pressure for peace.

"One could argue that the improvements in U.S.-Soviet relations and the end of the cold war may have the paradoxical effect of allowing conflicts in the Third World to fester for a long time," he said.

There was some progress towards settling several longtime wars in 1989, but many others — such as the conflicts in Cambodia, Ethiopia and El Salvador — flared into open daily warfare after periods of relative peace.

"We've seen some fairly dramatic developments in the peace process as a result of warming U.S.-Soviet relations," said Michael Mandelbaum, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City and director of the council's project on East-West relations. "The changes in the Soviet Union had a pronounced impact on the conflict in southern Africa and in Southeast Asia."

"But I think we've now consumed the peace dividend. Now I think we're going to see these regional conflicts continuing because they've got causes that have very little to do with U.S.-Soviet relations," he said.

Throughout 1989, more than 25 major wars were fought in different parts of the world, and reports of smaller skirmishes flaring periodically came from dozens of distant datelines, like the Chittagong hills of southern Bangladesh.

In October, for instance, there were 27 active "trouble spots" around the globe where major wars were being waged, just one fewer than the 28 hot spots recorded at the end of 1988, said Peter Wallsten, director of the Peace and Conflict Studies Department at Sweden's Uppsala University. Wallsten's department tracks major wars for the Sweden International Peace Research Institute's annual yearbook on global conflict.

Though seemingly unrelated, many of these wars and smaller conflicts involved ethnic groups fighting for a common goal: Creation of their own independent state. The Soviet Union even saw the resurgence of nationalism in several of its republics turn violent in 1989.

Other wars involved border disputes with ancient or colonial origins and attempts to overthrow governments.

In Asia, guerrillas were fighting to topple the governments of Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka despite pressures for peace from the superpowers and neighbouring countries.

In the deserts and mountains of Africa, decades-old wars flared anew between Chad and Libyan-backed rebels, between the Polisario guerrillas and the Moroccan government to create an independent state in the Western Sahara, and between two allied rebel armies and the Ethiopian government. The death toll also mounted from insurrections in the Sudan, Somalia and Mozambique.

In the Middle East, Lebanon was plunged into a new orgy of factional bloodletting between Christians, Muslims and the Syrian army; the Palestinian uprising ground on in the Israeli-occupied territories; and Kurdish guerrillas kept fighting for an independent state in adjoining areas of Iraq, Iran and Turkey.

In the mountains and cities of Central and South America, leftist rebels mounted the fiercest offensive of their 10-year-old war against the government of El Salvador, while guerrillas stepped up their insurrections in Guatemala and Peru.

The Colombian government found itself fighting terrorism by cocaine traffickers and a resurgence of leftist guerrilla attacks. And a new round of battles broke out between the Nicaraguan government and U.S.-backed rebels as peace talks dogged down in November.

But the guns remained silent, for the most part, in the Gulf region of the Middle East, although Iran and Iraq ended 1989 no closer to a formal peace treaty ending their 8-year-old war than when a cease-fire took hold in mid-1988.

Africa's last colony, Namibia, also moved closer to independence from South Africa in 1989 as a regional peace plan appeared to be working.

The Soviet Union's new foreign policy under President Mikhail Gorbachev led to some tentative moves in 1989 towards peace in three countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia and Angola.

After 10 years of fighting alongside the Afghan Communist government against Muslim rebels, the Soviet Union withdrew its soldiers in February 1989. The pullout did little to end the fighting.

The continuing Afghan civil war "demonstrates how indirect the superpowers' influence is" on Third World conflicts, said Gregory Trevorton, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Affairs. "It seems to me the people in Afghanistan are prepared to fight for a long, long time."

Soviet pressure on Angola, coupled with U.S. arm-twisting directed at the UNITA rebels, led both sides to the negotiating table. Cuba also began withdrawing its troops from Angola in 1989 as part of the regional peace plan providing for Namibian independence.

The Angolan government and the rebels agreed to an initial cease-fire in 1989 after 14 years of civil war. But once the initial euphoria subsided, skirmishes flared as both sides accused the other of truce violations.

In Cambodia, the Soviet Union helped persuade its major ally in the region, Vietnam, to withdraw its troops from the country, producing another burst of optimism that peace might be near.

But international peace talks failed to produce a settlement.

LETTERS

The silent majority

To the Editor:

THE recent parliamentary elections have proven that Jordan, like all other countries, has a huge silent majority. A look at the results shows that most of the elected representatives either have tribal or political party affiliations, whether declared or not.

As I studied the results I was awed at the minute number of votes won by those candidates who in their campaigns concentrated on national issues, and who very clearly are loyal first and foremost to Jordan rather than to a political party, a religious group or to a certain ideology. Those candidates, I venture to say, have the largest following. Unfortunately, their following is basically the silent majority that I am talking about.

I have in the past few days discussed the elections, particularly the results, with numerous friends, acquaintances and colleagues who are worried that because, for example, a certain group has a majority in the Lower House they may instigate legislation that will restrict, if not jeopardise some of the liberties they now enjoy and have forever taken for granted. Others are worried about the socialist or Communist ideals of some repre-

sentatives and how these ideals are going to affect future legislation.

It came as no real surprise to me when most of these people told me that they did not vote. It was either because they "couldn't be bothered" or because they thought their vote "wouldn't make a difference".

Regardless who won the election, or who did not, time will prove that the real winner was Jordan in proving to the world that we are capable of having democratic elections whereby everyone has an equal chance regardless of their background, political or otherwise. The only loser is the silent majority that should by now feel nothing but sorry for not exercising the full rights granted by the Constitution, and guaranteed by His Majesty King Hussein and his government.

My final word to the silent majority is: "I hope you realise by now that you should be bothered, that it makes a lot of difference, and that next time you are given such a chance stand up and be counted or forever hold your peace".

Mithkal R. Asfour
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Teenagers address world

By Cherie Hart

TOO YOUNG to vote, they were already outlining policy on human rights, the environment, regional security and development assistance. Three American teenagers imagined they were President of the United States, and the world listened.

The students had entered a writing contest sponsored by the United Nations Association of the USA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Dailey Family Foundation. Each won a free trip to a developing nation, their flights courtesy of Thomas Cook and Egyptair, Royal Air Maroc, and Air Jamaica.

During their one-week visits, they toured UNDP projects and met with other teenagers to learn, first hand, about problems faced in the developing world. The trips also provided a mix of talks with U.N. and government dignitaries, visits to landmarks and historical sites, with forays into the countryside for a glimpse of local culture.

"We can either overcome global problems together, or we shall submit to them separately," wrote Paras Mehta, the 15-year-old prize winner from Centris High School in California. He competed against more than 1,000 young people from 20 states who submitted their version of a U.S. presidential speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

Mr. Mehta was awarded \$1,000 and a trip to Egypt for his address which stressed the interdependence of nations and called for worldwide initiatives to stop depletion of the ozone layer. The lanky teenager, whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from India, has served as secretary general of his school's Model United Nations for three years.

Fifteen-year-old Jeff Fecke had never flown on a plane before he won \$750 and a trip to Morocco. The violation of human rights is the world's most pressing problem, wrote the Nicotlet Junior High School student from Burnsville, Minnesota. "Each and every day," he wrote, "the basic rights of millions of people are trampled upon because of their views, their religion, their gender or their race."

Matthew Bomberger, an 18-year-old from Gainesville High School in Florida, flew to Jamaica for his prize, which included \$500. Formerly secretary general of his school's U.N. club, he will attend the University of Notre Dame in September. "To truly understand each other, we must open our societies and search out further social contact," he wrote in his essay. "The barriers of isolation must be torn down and an effort be made to learn from each other."

And learn is what each winner did. Before his trip to Egypt, Mr. Mehta's perception of the U.N. was that of diplomatic meetings, committees and negotiations, usually focusing on peace initiatives. "Now I know that the U.N. and organizations like UNDP work in the field, not just behind closed doors, to better the lives of people throughout the world."

During his Egypt trip, Mr. Mehta had a chance to witness UNDP in action, both behind the scenes and at a project site. His VIP treatment began the moment he arrived in Cairo accompanied by his teacher, Richard Neville, a UNDP representative and a press entourage befitting any world leader. He was present at the signing of a joint project between UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and Egypt's Ministry of Agriculture. The enterprise will create a computer network to monitor the production of agricultural crops.

But development means more than signing agreements, as Mr. Mehta saw for himself. On a field visit to Noubaria, 150 kilometres northwest of Cairo, he observed a productive farming area that was once a barren stretch of sand. The massive reclamation project of 875,000 hectares supports a community in which university graduates, formerly landless farmers and private investors are profitably growing vegetables, cultivating guava, citrus and olive trees, and raising livestock. By the early 1990s, the project will increase Egyptian agricultural land by 20 per cent and create more than 75,000 new jobs.

"I saw dedicated people working strenuously in the heat to help local farmers improve their crop cultivation techniques," says Mr. Mehta. "It was a true people-to-people exchange."

Morocco proved to be as stimulating for Mr. Fecke as Egypt was for Mr. Mehta. Throughout his tour, the mid-west teenager experienced official hospitality from Morocco's minister of culture as well as visiting with villagers who offered their homes, native cuisine, and enthusiasm to make their American guest feel welcome.

Accompanied by U.N. officials, his mother and Mariel Wolter, the teacher who inspired him to enter the writing contest, Mr. Fecke spent his first day sightseeing in the port city of Rabat. The group toured the mausoleum of King Mohammed V, King Hassan's father, and the famous Medina, the old city encircled by the town's ancient ruins and fortresses.

Poor school children offering shoe shines and trinkets, trailed the group through the cobblestoned streets of Rabat as they explored centuries-old mosques,

markets and a tiny Islamic school presided over by an elderly teacher.

"That's when culture shock really hit," says the ninth grader. "What really struck me were the beggars and the blind children sitting with their hands out. All the while, people were selling their wares and business was going on as usual. You sure don't see meat and goat heads hanging in front of shops in Burnsville."

He felt right at home, however, during his first-ever meeting with a foreign dignitary. It turned out that Mohammed Benaissa, Morocco's minister of culture, had studied journalism during the 1960s at Minnesota State University, near Mr. Fecke's home town. "It was amazing to go half way around the world and meet someone who studied near where I live," says Mr. Fecke. "It made the world seem like such a small place."

After a three-hour journey to the tiny village of Oulmes, nestled in the remote Atlas Mountains, the group visited a national cow-breeding ranch assisted by UNDP. In meetings with veterinarians and scientists, they learned that through genetic engineering the project will increase the productivity of the local breed — the *Oulmes blonde*, a cow best suited to grazing over the area's wild grasslands and pine forest. Beneath a tent of local wool, the Fockes then feasted on roast lamb, couscous and fresh fruit grown in a nearby valley.

Education was the main focus of Mr. Bomberger's trip to Jamaica. Hard hit by Hurricane Gilbert last September, the country is still trying to get back on economic track. Picking up the pieces includes repairing the 1,200 schools damaged by hurricane.

Gainesville High School, where Mr. Bomberger was vice president of the student body, has agreed to adopt Ocho Rios High School along the north coast of Jamaica. Shortly after winning the writing contest in May, Mr. Bomberger received a letter from the island school, sent through the UNDP Jamaica office, asking for help.

The note expressed a need for supplies such as typewriters and science lab equipment. Mr. Bomberger and his Advanced Placement Government and History teacher, La La Fontaine, immediately began discussions with school officials in Florida to see what could be done.

The two arrived in Kingston with approval from their school and an eagerness to firm up the logistics for a programme of sharing. After a sightseeing tour of the old fort and pirate haunts of Jamaica's Port Royal, they met with a group of Peace Corps volunteers who were working

with UNDP in assessing the damage to nearly 1,000 schools throughout the country.

"The peace Corps volunteers were going to each school to report on the actual hurricane destruction," says Mr. Bomberger. "UNDP provided their transportation. It was interesting for me to see the two agencies in action like that."

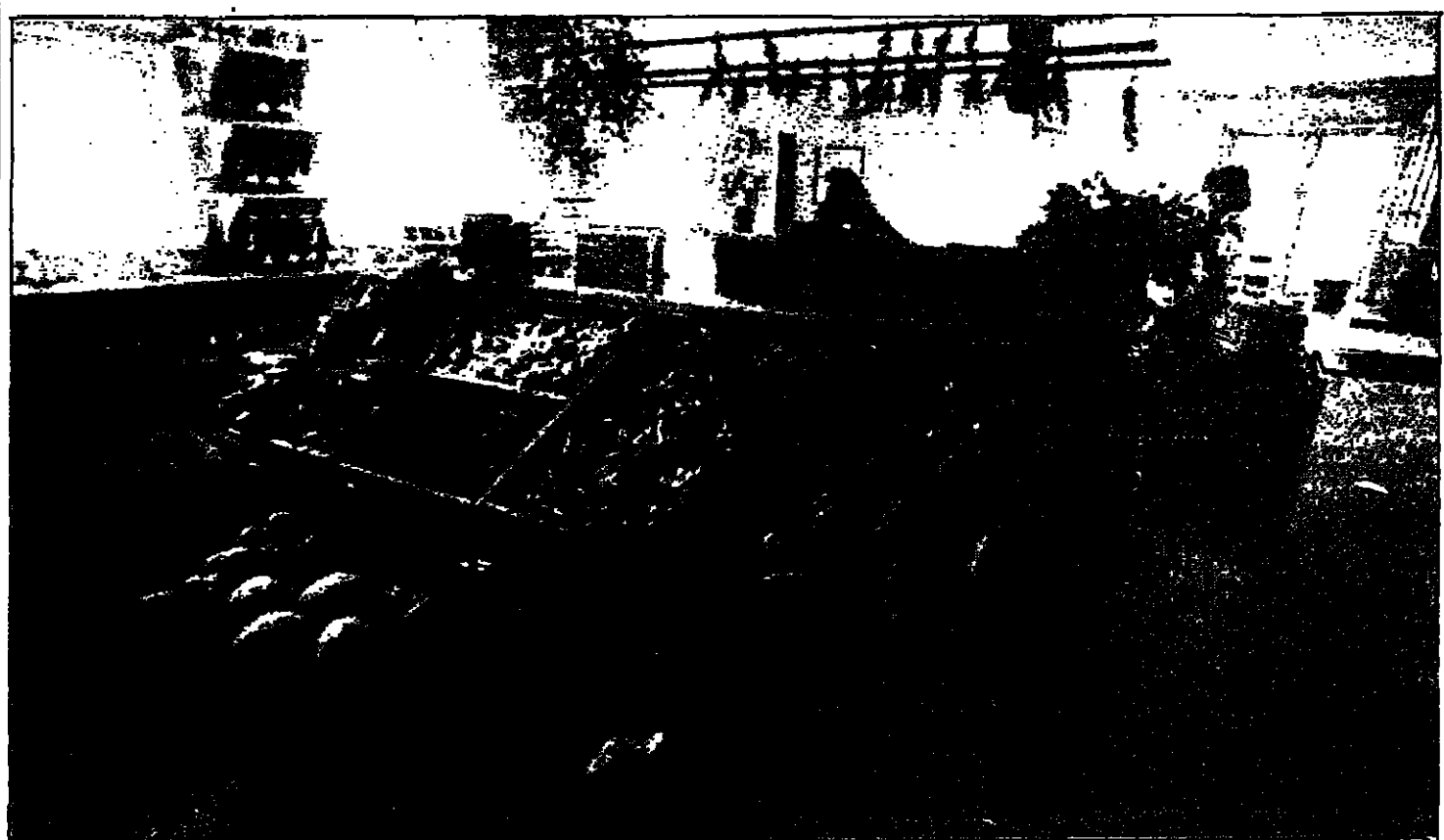
The next day, Mr. Bomberger participated in a panel discussion among teachers and students at St. Andrews Technical High School in Kingston. They told him about the storm damage and vandalism of the schools after the hurricane. "They described the kind of problems they have," says Mr. Bomberger, "and they were anxious to hear what difficulties we face in our schools back home. Vandalism and drugs plague schools in both countries."

When Mr. Bomberger arrived in Ocho Rios the next day, he and his teacher were greeted with much fanfare and honoured with student art work, gifts of local fruit, flowers and a poem expressing gratitude for adopting Ocho Rios High. "I felt like royalty," says Mr. Bomberger. "It was all quite overwhelming to see hundreds of students lined up and cheering for me."

Exchange of classroom supplies from Gainesville to Ocho Rios will begin in the fall. UNDP will assist with the shipping of school materials. "The aim is to eventually expand the pilot adopt-a-school project from Gainesville High to other schools in the United States, Great Britain and Canada," says Hugh Cholmondeley, UNDP Resident Representative in Jamaica.

Friendships between Mr. Bomberger and students from Ocho Rios were sealed when members of the school's UNESCO club took him to the beach and brought him through the famed Dunn's River Falls. Hand-in-hand, the teenagers climbed the slippery rocks to the top of the waterfall. On the two-hour drive back to Kingston, he caught his last glimpses of the lush, green Fern Gully and the mountain orchids of Jamaica.

With one afternoon left of his adventure, Mr. Bomberger visited the Law of the Sea offices and conference centre in Kingston. In his prize-winning speech he had said that, if he were president, he would reverse the U.S. position on the Law of the Sea treaty. He wrote, "The United States is ready to accept the Law of the Sea Convention in full." The agreement is a multinational attempt to regulate development of the world's sea bed resources. After seeing the spectacular convention centre, which is a converted rum storehouse, Mr. Bomberger suggested that it would be a great site for the next Model U.N. — UNDP



Fresh vegetables at the counter!

Nature back on the table

By Slavoljub Kacarevic

WHILE REPRESENTATIVES of the produce industry are frightened by the fact that there could soon be an end to the era of chemically grown food (according to an article in the International Herald Tribune), there is a rise in demand on the developed countries' markets for food produced without chemicals. Such trends were also noted long ago in Yugoslavia, thus one of the largest food producers, the Belgrade Agricultural Combine (PKB), three years ago began implementing its project entitled the "power of nature" — food production the natural way.

The value of untouched fields in Yugoslavia, almost 100,000 tonnes of chemical preparations are used annually in agriculture. Even though this is far below the European average, awareness of the danger of the "green revolution" is rising and organised efforts regarding the nutritional content of food are being made not only by government institutions but also by alternative movements such as the Society for Environmental Protection, the Vegetarian Society and the Macrobiotic Society.

"In our opinion, PKB joined the ecological fight at the right time, with the production of health food. In the movement towards a healthier life, we want to be among the first food pro-

ducers," said Nikola Milutinovic, assistant general director of PKB. In addition to its principal support for ecological efforts, this firm does not hide the fact that it is also interested in profits by producing health food. Dr. Draško Dusić, Director of the PKB Institute was initiated, explains that experts have the task of not only researching but also commercialising the production of health food.

European fields, in Milutinovic's words, are already so saturated with chemicals that it would take years for them to be fit to produce health food even if they stopped utilising chemicals today. In Yugoslavia, many agricultural regions are still untouched by the "green revolution" and could be adapted to grow health food immediately or in a year or two.

European fields, in Milutinovic's words, are already so saturated with chemicals that it would take years for them to be fit to produce health food even if they stopped utilising chemicals today. In Yugoslavia, many agricultural regions are still untouched by the "green revolution" and could be adapted to grow health food immediately or in a year or two.

Therefore, PKB has started or is preparing the production of health food under the strictest conditions on Bolec, on Ozren and Zlatibor mountains, in Sokobanja, in the regions around Tito-

vo Uziće and Uzička Pozega, in Sjenica and Maljen. According to Zivko Popovic, head of the project "Powers of Nature," these products' first test on the world market will be in Sweden: PKB is presently negotiating with Sweden on health food exports. According to Milutinovic, PKB is open to joint ventures with foreign partners should there be any interest in these products.

Gaining the consumer's confidence In the twilight of the "green

revolution" the conflict of interest on the food market between producers and consumers has been transferred to the area of mass media where each side in a controversy about the quality of food often has its "own experts." Buyers are then presented conflicting information which often increases the fear and uncertainty of buying food.

In Yugoslavia numerous attempts were made to impartially evaluate the quality of food, the loudest being the campaigns by consumer groups in larger cities. While the complex continues to offer the Club Med's usual gamut of sporting and recreational activities, the big difference with its forebears is that only half the clients are expected to be holidaymakers.

The remainder, Trigano hopes, will come for training seminars or company meetings. In seeking to attract company executives to work in the relaxed atmosphere of the typical Club Med village, Trigano says he hopes to increase his year-round clientele. "Our aim is to increase bookings."

This still did not help restore order on the food market and in Belgrade this year the public was presented the "Health Food" programme from CISIM (Venter of Intellectual Property and Marketing).

In the words of Mirjana Pavlovic, author and leader of this project, the aim is to single out those food products from the mass on the market that are distinguished by a high level of nutritional correctness and biological value and specially market them "health food." The intention is to encourage competition among producers and improve quality, and to facilitate the customer when buying food. In order to achieve this, the "health food" mark must earn a good reputation on the market, primarily in the consumer's eyes. For this reason, CISIM is investing an increasing amount of money in advertising.

If its products pass the standards that are stricter than those of the European Community, the producer receives the right to the CISIM stamp for one year at most, and then the detailed tests are repeated.

CISIM is preparing a campaign for the world food exhibit that is similar to its formation of a domestic market image. The idea is to export its mark as a guarantee of quality, thereby facilitating Yugoslav producer's access to foreign buyers — Tanjug features.

By Claire Rosemberg

Renter

PARIS — Forget the idle titillation of sun, sand, sea and surf. For the average 1990s yuppie, holidays will be all work, work, work.

So says Gilbert Trigano, the chairman and driving force behind one of the world's most successful travel ventures, the Club Med, better known as Club Med.

"Holidays are no longer a time for emptiness, idleness. They have become a time for activity," he said in an interview.

A short, stocky-built man of 69, Trigano has the Frenchman's

penchant for philosophical musings. But he also has an unusually good use for changing social trends and an even canner ability to cash in on them.

Ever since its first camp sprouted into being 39 years ago — a field of windy tents in the Balearic Islands — the Club Med has won a reputation for putting pleasure into leisure.

For an entire generation of holiday-makers, its resorts evoke palm-trees, topos beauties, tropical sands, midnight swims and romance — the easy-living hedonism that took root in the 1960s.

But Trigano now threatens to take at least some of the fun out of the 98 Club Med camps dotted

The idle are a dying breed

across the globe.

"Holidays," he proclaims from his vast office overlooking the Paris bourse, "should help people understand what they are capable of doing — and should provide the means to do it."

Looking to the future, he sees a high-tech society in which professionals, equipped with computer terminals and telefax transmitters, will work from home but occasionally come face to face with colleagues at seminars in Club Med villages or hotels.

This new generation of execu-

tives, faced with a rapidly changing professional environment, will be forced to constantly learn new languages and new skills.

He predicts that in the space of a working life a successful professional may have to practise a dozen different jobs.

"During the past 30 years, holidays were a sort of breathing space in a life cycle in which there was a time to learn, a time to work and a time to prepare for death," he said.

"Then, a few years ago, as they became a fact of life and grew

longer and longer, we realised they were a time for activity, for sports or manual skills. Now they have also become a time for reflection, self-knowledge and self-advancement."

One out of every five Club Med villages already offers computer training courses, and its luxury marbella site, in southern Spain, is described in the brochures as "a permanent computer campus."

But it is at home, in southwest France, that Trigano has launched his biggest experiment in the

holiday of the year 2000.

In Opio, near the riviera city of Cannes, the Club Med last summer opened a luxury resort that threatens to upset every commandment in the company Bible — while ringing in a steady flow of cash.

The golden rule of the prototype Club Med village was to isolate its "gentle members" — or clients — from the stress and strain of urban living. Telephones, television and newspapers were banned or kept at a discouraging distance.

"When I pedalled into town and back from a Club Med village in Africa to buy the newspapers, the organisers snuffed and said 'ah we have an intellectual!'"

Money was replaced with coloured beads and, to help the permanently cheerful staff to create a feeling of communion, the early Club Med resorts had few or no single rooms.

Opio, however, will be another kettle of fish.

The \$60-million resort has cable TV and single rooms with telephones connected to a fax and computer terminal network. The beads may one day be replaced by plastic cards.

Like the old exotic villages,

many of the tables are set for eight, a delight for the socially gregarious who love community table talk.

While the complex continues to offer the Club Med's usual gamut of sporting and recreational activities, the big difference with its forebears is that only half the clients are expected to be holidaymakers.

The remainder, Trigano hopes, will come for training seminars or company meetings.

In seeking to attract company executives to work in the relaxed atmosphere of the typical Club Med village, Trigano says he hopes to increase his year-round clientele. "Our aim is to increase bookings."

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Report expects world economic growth to slow down next year

NEW YORK (AP) — Major world economies performed strongly in 1989, but some slowing of growth is likely in the coming year, economists say.

Meanwhile, communist nations remain victims of economic stagnation, and crushing foreign debts have been little alleviated in Africa and Latin America.

"The world economy has been exceptionally strong in 1988-89," Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., a major New York bank, noted in a report.

"In 1990," in predicted, "growth in most foreign economies looks set to slow from the recent unsustainable pace. Overheating has emerged in parts of Europe, notably Britain and Spain. Overheating is at least potentially a concern in Japan as well. China has stumbled and this setback may depress growth in the region at large, especially in Hong Kong."

In Latin America, Morgan Guaranty said, "growth remains shackled by structural failings and lack of confidence."

In the United States, experts worried about possible trouble ahead, but few preached outright gloom.

The U.S. government ended its fiscal year Sept. 30 with a \$152.08 billion deficit, about the same as the two previous years.

"We doubt the government can print \$150 billion deficits for the indefinite future without some sort of adverse consequences for this economy," said William Sullivan Jr., economist at Dean Witter Reynolds, a U.S. financial firm.

In 1990, the U.S. economy faces a significant slowdown, but growth will rebound in 1991, giving the United States an unprecedented nine years without a recession, according to a prediction by the Business Council, composed of 100 chief executives of the largest American corporations.

Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Chairman Alan Greenspan — head of the U.S. central bank — went on record with his own opinion that a recession can be avoided in 1990 and U.S. inflation reduced to zero in a few years.

However, with the 12 European Community (EC) nations set to eliminate all internal barriers by 1992, American executives were pessimistic about their chances in a European market they feared might become a protectionist "fortress Europe."

Polling 350 U.S. chief executives, the Conference Board, an independent research organization, found that 45 per cent of them don't expect their companies to be able to compete effectively in Europe after 1992. "A large majority," the Conference Board added, "look for Japan and Korea to be hit hardest by European unification. The biggest beneficiaries will be neighbouring Eastern European

countries, the executives say." The EC economy, the EC press office proclaimed in October, "is in good health... economic growth is continuing strongly, with an expected increase in real output in 1990 of about three per cent... with faster economic growth, job creation has speeded up. Another 1.5 million jobs should be added in 1990."

But it noted that unemployment in the EC will still be about nine per cent in 1990, although average inflation "could be reduced to about 4.5 per cent from five per cent in 1989."

These were minor problems compared with the economic upheavals in Eastern Europe, where communist governments struggled against ideology to insert some invigorating market economics into their stagnant state-run Marxist systems. At least two nations — Poland and Hungary — moved away from one-party government by the Communist Party.

In the Soviet Union itself, President Mikhail Gorbachev wrestled with a government-directed economy plagued by shortages of consumer goods, strikes, nationalist disturbances, unemployment, huge budget deficits and top-heavy bureaucracy. Seeking a still ill-defined socialist market system, Gorbachev nevertheless warned against adopting a capitalist-style market economy.

"After two weeks," Gorbachev warned, "such a market would bring the whole nation out on the streets and sweep out any government."

In China, another communist giant afflicted with economic ills traditionally associated with capitalism, inflation was down sharply to 13 per cent in 1989 from 30 per cent in 1988. But the first big bills were coming due in 1990 from the country's decade-long economic boom, creating a dire outlook for a nation already facing serious fiscal concerns.

China's foreign debt had ballooned to \$42 billion and after the student and civil unrest of 1989, foreign bankers were wary.

"No difficulties will occur in paying back the loans," said Finance Vice Minister Liu Zhongli. But he acknowledged this would only be possible by taking out new loans.

Elsewhere, debt and population growth ticked like time-bombs. The external debt of Third World nations grew to \$1.3 trillion in 1989, and negotiations to reduce this enormous burden are taking too long, according to Michel Camdessus, director of the International Monetary Fund.

Mexico and the Philippines came to agreements with their

creditor banks in response to a plan formulated by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, but the banks' talks with other major debtors such as Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela remained stalled. Argentina alone was \$4 billion behind on its interest payments.

In Africa, 30 sub-Saharan countries, with a per capita income of only about \$400, owed \$130 billion abroad and continued trying unsuccessfully to meet their payments under economic recovery programmes imposed by the IMF.

New investments dwindled and success of the plans seemed doubtful. African debtors nations "are in for a long period of adjustment. It could take decades," said Carol Lancaster of the Institute for International Economics, an independent Washington-based think tank.

The region's population was growing at the rate of 3.2 per cent a year, more than six times the rate for industrial nations. "Rapid population growth impedes sub-Saharan Africa's progress toward virtually all its major goals," said a World Bank report.

India, benefiting from an economic liberalisation programme undertaken by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi after four decades of slow economic growth averaging 3.5 per cent a year, had its sights set on a five per cent economic growth rate for 1989

and six per cent yearly in 1990-1994 under Gandhi's five-year plan.

Gandhi, however, faced the uncertain outcome of elections this month.

In the Middle East, a major economic factor was that oil prices, even after the end of the Iran-Iraq war, settled into a rut in 1989 and seemed set for a long period of stability.

"Do not expect revolutionary price movements," said Subroto, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Stable oil prices are likely until the year 2000, said Subroto.

This "will allow both producers and consumers to plan confidently," said Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer.

Sheltered from unsettling oil shocks, once again Japan and the "new industrial countries" of East Asia were the strongest part of the world economy in 1989 and seemed set on a course of economic growth and political stability into 1990 and beyond.

"Led by Japan and the four little dragons of Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea," said Fortune magazine of the United States, "they have long paced the world's economic growth. Now comes the dramatic payoff. In the 1990s this dynamic region will be a market as big as North America or Europe."

Algerian, Jordanian teams discuss bilateral relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Teams from Jordan and Algeria opened talks here Sunday to explore ways to increase economic and trade cooperation between them and pave the way for trade fairs to be held in Amman and Algiers to promote the sale of national products.

The balance of trade between the two countries is unfavourable for both sides due to the low level of trade between them as a result of the geographical location and the Algerian economic link to European countries, the head of the Jordanian side, Mohammad Asfour, told the opening session.

Asfour, who is also president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, said that lack of coordination between Jordan and Algeria and the absence of trade dealings as well as the limited production base in the two countries were also to be blamed for the present situation.

Asfour suggested that trade fairs for Jordan and Algeria, to be organised in each other's capital, are bound to promote the sale of national products and that exchanges of visits by businessmen and officials in charge of trade and economy would also pave the way for a fruitful relationship.

Asfour briefed the visitors on the economic development in Jordan and said that the Algerian team's visit is bound to contribute

to the creation of a favourable climate for trade.

The head of the Algerian side, Mr. Rashid Sibri, said that there was a good chance for the two countries to launch a fruitful relationship. He added that the delegation would benefit from the visit during which its members would acquaint themselves with Jordan's economic development and would try to benefit from the Kingdom's experiments in industry and trade.

The two sides, grouping businessmen and members of chambers of industry and commerce, held working sessions during which the Jordanian side presented a working paper outlining Jordanian laws concerning investment and trade, exemptions to investors, regulations concerning imports and exports and facilities given for trade with the Arab World.

The Algerian side presented a working paper dealing with the recent economic reforms which paved the way for the country's free trade with Arab and foreign countries.

Later, the Algerian delegation had a meeting with the secretary-general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqaf with whom they reviewed Jordanian-Algerian trade relations and ways to open new channels to raise their level.

Saqqaf said that trade fairs and agreements between Amman and Algiers on definite trade deals would help boost bilateral commerce and open the way for the private sector in both countries to contribute to improving trade cooperation.

Saqqaf and the Algerians also reviewed earlier agreements on imports and exports.

Philippine business community demands vigorous reform drive

MANILA (AP) — Business leaders have called for "radical change" in investment rules, crackdown on corruption and overhaul of the deteriorating infrastructure if the Philippines is to attract foreign investment.

The call was made by the Philippine chamber of commerce and industry at the end of a three-day conference. Delegates criticised President Corazon Aquino's administration for ineffective planning, the slow pace of reform and allowing Manila's electricity, telephone and transport systems to deteriorate.

Aquino told delegates she would improve Manila's infrastructure and pursue a campaign against corruption, even against her relatives.

But Aquino received only perfunctory applause at the end of the 20-minute speech. The business community had been among her strongest supporters during the successful campaign to oust the late president Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

This month, Aquino visited Canada and the United States to encourage investment and painted a favourable picture of the investment climate here.

But in a closing statement, the chamber said the country "must adopt a radical change in her investment policies" if the Philippines is "to create a fertile climate for investments."

The chamber called for a "clear-cut investment policy" as well as reducing state interference in the economy, fiscal restraint, an end to government regulation of wages and breaking up cartels and monopolies to increase competition.

"Laws must be effectively enforced," the chamber said. "Critical to this is increased coordination among government bodies, notably among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the government."

On corruption, the chamber called for eliminating bureaucratic red tape, increasing penalties for corrupt officials and speeding up prosecution of offenders.

"The government would do well to assert its authority and morality and give meaning to the constitutional cornerstone that public office is public trust," the chamber said.

During her speech, Aquino claimed the fight against corruption was "a personal crusade of mine." She said corruption was a "festering problem" that has been "the scourge not only of this government but all previous governments as well."

Two local firms win third phase contract for major road

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing Sunday awarded a JD 8.5 million tender to two local construction firms to construct 7.5 kilometres of road along the Amman-Naam Dead Sea Highway.

The project, which is part three of a plan designed to enlarge the highway linking the capital with the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, is jointly financed by the Jordanian government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Acting Minister of Public Works and Housing, Hisham Al Khatib, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after the signing ceremony that the stretch of road under the contract extends from Dar Al Dawwa factory in the Adasieh region and continues further down the highway. This will be a four lane stretch with an island and will be completed in two years time, the minister said.

The Amman-Dead Sea highway will extend for 41 kilometres and, according to ministry officials, will cost JD 19 million of which 60 per cent will be covered by USAID.

The new highway is expected to facilitate traffic between Amman and the Jordan Valley, and ease traffic congestions specially during the winter season when the valley is visited by vacationers in the weekends.

Honda to up imports by '92

TOKYO (AP) — Honda Motor Co. will more than double its imports, chiefly cars and auto-related parts, to 160 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) in 1992 to meet rising domestic demand and help reduce Japan's trade imbalance.

Honda in 1992 plans to import 2.5 times the 63 billion yen (\$440.5 million) it imported in 1988, the company said in a statement.

"The measure, in part, is intended to contribute to reducing the nation's trade surplus," said a Honda official who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said the greater imports also were aimed at meeting growing domestic demand for foreign-made cars.

In 1988, Japan's trade surplus with the United States was more than \$50 billion, according to U.S. figures.

Honda plans to import 82 billion yen (\$73.4 million) worth of finished products in 1992, ranging from automobiles, motorcycles to power products, all produced by Honda in the United States, the statement said.

Honda will increase its imports of passenger cars produced at its Marysville, Ohio, plant, to 50,000 cars a year in 1992, it said. Honda began importing an accord model from its Ohio plant in April 1988 and plans to import about 4,600 cars this year.

After a second Honda auto plant at East Liberty, Ohio, begins operations next month, Honda's annual production in the United States is expected to reach 510,000 cars in 1991, the statement said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

China expects long power shortages

PEKING (R) — China's power shortages that idle up to 30 per cent of the nation's industry will continue at least until the end of the century, a senior economic official was quoted as saying. The China Daily quoted as saying. The China Daily quoted Yue Luqun of the ministry of energy resources as saying each year China was short of 30 million tonnes of coal, five million tonnes of oil and 50 billion kilowatts of electricity. To alleviate the shortage, China will spend 20 billion yuan (\$5.4 billion) starting this year on 27 power projects, including oilfields, coal mines and coal and hydro power stations, Yue said. The cost of electricity from new plants will be more than 0.2 yuan (0.05 cents) per kilowatt-hour, more than double the current level, the newspaper said. An unpublished policy document approved by a plenary session of the Communist Party this month said prices of oil and coal would be gradually raised to help the energy sector. Yue said one quarter of the 20 billion would come from abroad but gave no details.

S. Korea aims to top world textiles

SEOUL (R) — South Korea plans to become the world's biggest textile exporter by the year 2000 by pumping government funds into private industry, according to a trade ministry plan. The plan, retroactive from February this year, calls for doubling the country's present textile exports to \$30 billion a year at the turn of the next century. "We also hope to upgrade the quality of fabrics and textiles to the level of, say, Italy and France," a ministry official said. He said South Korea was currently the world's third major exporter of textiles, behind West Germany and Italy. Under the plan, the government will have invested a total of about \$3.8 billion in industrial facilities by the year 2000. An additional \$15 billion will be invested annually until 1995 for research and development in such areas as dyeing, printing and stitching. South Korean textile exports would reach about \$23 billion in 1995 and \$30 billion in the year 2000, compared with \$14.1 billion last year.

Jordanian farm exports increase

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan exported 437,191 tonnes of fruits and vegetables in the past 10 months, against 315,496 tonnes in the same period of 1988, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. It said that the total revenues from the sale of agricultural products over the past 10 months was estimated at JD 70,466,000.

Bahrain to build copper tubing plant

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain will build a 14 million dinar (\$37 million) copper tube plant, the first of its kind in the region, industry sources have said. Abdullah Al Kobaisi — head of the Bahraini firm behind the project — said the plant would have an initial capacity of 12,000 tonnes of tubing a year, expandable to 20,000 tonnes. France's Boliden Cuivre et Zinc would take a 49 per cent stake in the joint-venture firm for the project — Boliden Al Kobaisi Copper Industry — he said. Work would begin by the end of 1989 and take 18 months to complete. Tractebel Engineering International of Belgium would carry out construction of the plant with the help of local contractors, Kobaisi said. The factory will supply the Gulf with copper pipe for water supply and air conditioning units, copper-nickel tube for desalination plants and busbar plate for electrical circuits. Raw material will be provided by the Oman Mining Company and neighbouring states will supply about 4,000 tonnes of copper scrap a year, Kobaisi said. He said current Gulf demand for copper tubing was estimated at a minimum 20,000 tonnes a year.

Mauritius licences 'offshore banks'

PORT LOUIS (R) — Mauritius, which aims to become a financial centre for Africa, said Friday it had approved two more applications to set up offshore banks. The central bank said in a statement that S.B. International and Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation would set up offshore offices on the Indian Ocean island early next year. S.B. International is a joint venture between the State Commercial Bank of Mauritius and the State Bank of India. The government awarded its first three licences for offshore banking to Britain's Barclays Bank, France's Groupe Edmond De Rothschild and India's Baroda Bank earlier this year. Mauritius's offshore banking law enables licensed banks to accept deposits from foreign clients and lend to foreign clients on favourable tax terms and without exchange controls. Central bank governor Indur Ramphul last week urged Japanese banks to open up in the island's offshore sector at a meeting with Japan's new ambassador in Port Louis, Hideki Harashima. The government has said it expects to grant up to 10 offshore banking licences by the end of this year.

Auditor qualifies Bond

SYDNEY (R) — The auditor of entrepreneur Alan Bond's flagship company has cast doubt on whether the brewing, media and property empire will survive its debt crisis.

"There is some doubt that Bond Corp. and the Bond Corp. Group will be able to continue as a going concern," said Terry Underwood in notes on the Bond Corp. Holdings annual report and balance sheet.

The report shows Bond Group debt is 6.58 billion dollars (\$4.9 billion), rising to 8.23 billion (\$6.2 billion) when convertible bonds are included.

British-born Bond, feted as a hero in 1983 for bringing the America's Cup to Australia, has suffered a series of reversals this year.

The company's 814.07 million dollar loss for the year to June 30 has already set an Australian corporate record. Underwood, a partner in accounting firm Arthur Andersen, said Bond Corp.'s liabilities exceeded assets by 1.36 billion dollars (\$1.02 billion) and it had a 115.9 million dollar (\$87 million) deficit in shareholders' funds.

Bond planned asset sales and debt repayment to help its finances, he said. But uncertainty about the timing of sales and value of significant assets gave

rise to the doubts.

"During the reconstruction programme Bond Corp. and the Bond Corp. Group will be dependent upon the continued support from its lenders and its ultimate controlling entity, (Alan) Bond," he said.

He said the group's brewing arm had breached its lending covenants on an 880 million dollar loan (\$660 million). The syndicate of banks for the loan had indicated it would not issue default notices, he said, but if they did the loan would become due.

Bond Corp. Director Peter Lucas said in a separate statement that Bond was keeping the syndicate in touch with plans to sell Australian brewing assets.

The assets were valued in the accounts at less than one billion dollars (\$750 million) and the planned sale of Australian brewing operations to a joint venture with New Zealand brewer Lion Nathan at 2.5 billion (\$1.9 billion) would restore considerable shareholder equity, Lucas said.

Underwood said the Bond Group's projected cash flow and financial estimates for the year to June 30 1990, based on the assumption the reconstruction went ahead as planned, suggested enough money would be generated to allow Bond to continue.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

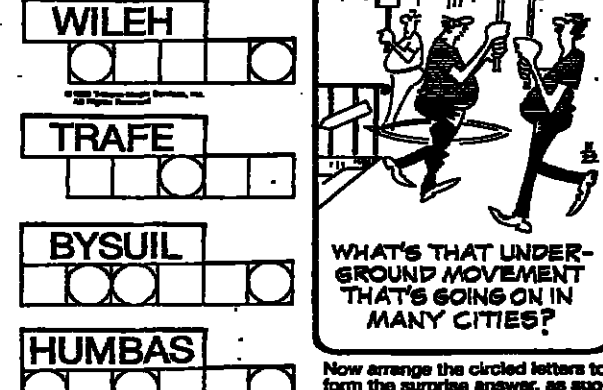
Sunday November 26, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	640.0	646.0	
Pound Sterling	1000.4	1010.4	
Deutschemark	355.3	358.9	
Swiss franc	397.5	401.5	
French franc			104.2 105.2
Japanese yen (for 100)			445.5 450.0
Dutch guilder			315.0 318.1
Swedish crown			99.8 100.8
Italian lire (for 100)			48.2 48.7
Belgian franc (for 10)			167.9 169.6

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



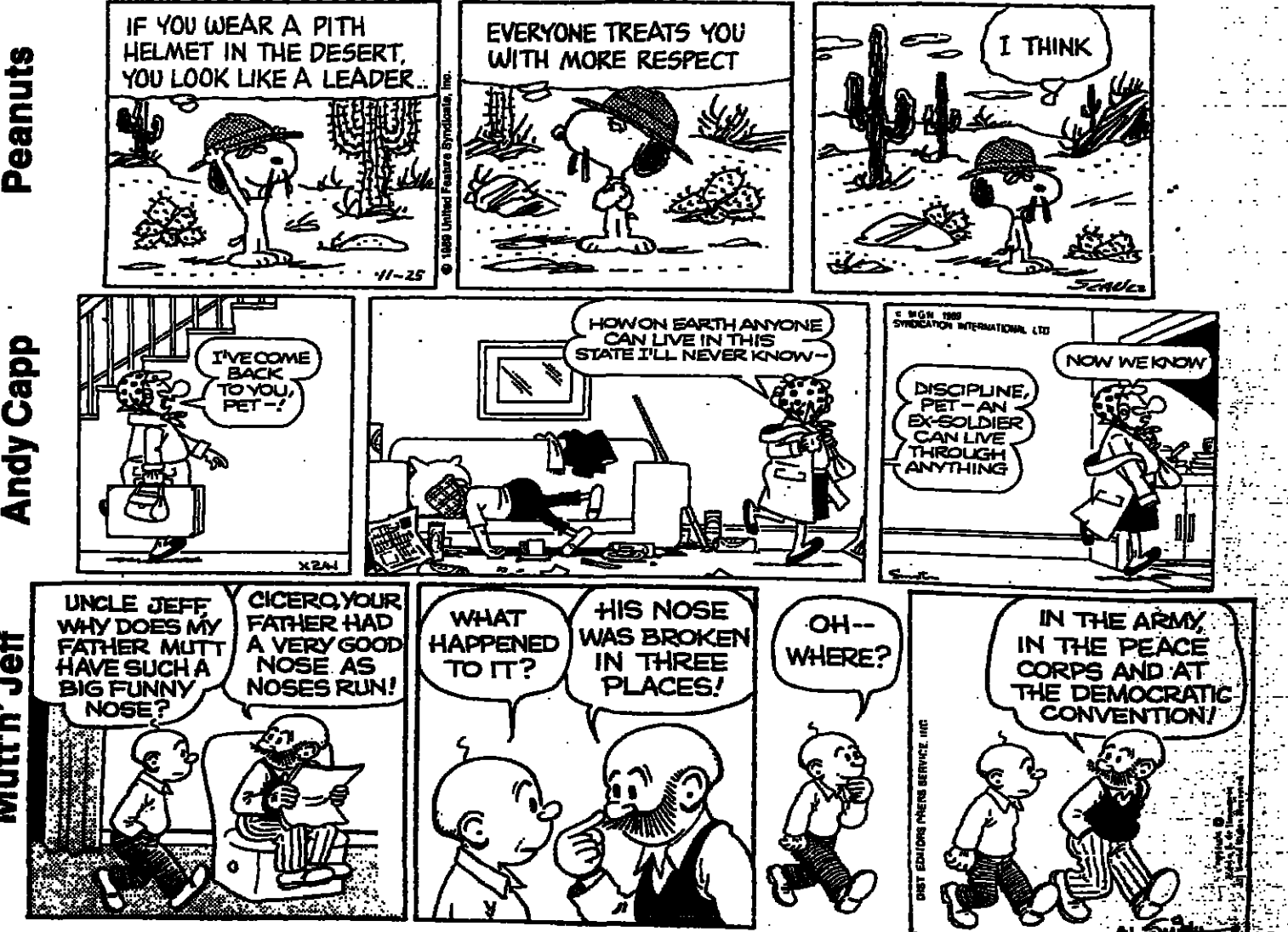
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BÉGOT ENSUE NEARBY RADIUM

Answer: She used to be afraid of mice until she finally decided to do this—MARRY ONE



Handwritten signature: محمد الجليل

Branson cancels Pacific stunt

MIYAKONOJO, Japan (R) — Virgin Atlantic Airways Chairman Richard Branson and Swedish balloonist Per Lindstrand cancelled their attempt to cross the Pacific Ocean by hot-air balloon on Sunday after first damaged the balloon.

"With the calculations we have done, we would have ended up in the Pacific," Branson told reporters. "We would not have made it to America."

The two were to have started across the Pacific early on Sunday from this southwestern Japanese town but Branson gave no indication of when a new attempt might be made.

In 1987, Branson and Lindstrand, a balloon manufacturer, were the first to cross the Atlantic in a hot-air balloon.

Lindstrand said the balloon had been seriously damaged by

being left out in frost overnight in anticipation of the launch.

Virgin Atlantic spokesman Chris Moss said the balloon's outer layer and insulation were seriously damaged.

Shreds of the outer layer were clearly visible when the balloon was being inflated in a giant softball field.

Technicians rushed non-essential personnel from the immediate area when pieces of the inner layer dislodged and flew on to the balloon's gas burners, a potential fire hazard.

Soon after, Branson and Lindstrand announced the cancellation. Repairs to the delicate shell of the balloon would take several months, Moss said.

The run-up to the mission has been fraught with setbacks, mostly posed by uncooperative weather.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It is important to concentrate on your instincts today. They are right on target. Concentrate on career goals which seem to be shaping up well for you now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Money will come to you today that surprises you. Don't be upset if a friend breaks a promise made to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Discuss new plans with your family before acting upon them. A serious situation with a friend needs investigating.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An associate will solve your worries about travel plans. Taking your mate to a social function will bring pleasure.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A prominent friend will give you good ideas for your assets. This is a good day to entertain good friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Conduct all matters based on the suggestion of a successful friend. Provide a service that will get your family respect.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Avoid a friend that is in a grumpy mood today. Going to see friends and relatives is a good thing today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A person with bright ideas will show you how to entertain in your

home. Tackle problems in a cheerful mood today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Investigate all situations that come around carefully. Don't be upset if your mate can't go with you on your trip.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Tensions at home will be relieved with patience on your part. A good day for you and your mate around home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take your family out on the town today and enjoy their company. Remodeling your home will give you pleasure.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A perfect day to entertain friends in your home. Be selective of what you do in a business or financial situation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be interested in accepting new ideas about business or finances. Avoid friends who will cost you time or money.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be one who is always ahead of the crowd with a natural ability to lead. A tendency toward rash judgments makes it necessary that this child think ahead and learn to be more thoughtful. There is also a talent for music.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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FORTUNE KNOCKS BUT ONCE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ Q 9 8 7 2
♥ A
♦ K 8 7
♣ K J 8 4

EAST
♠ 10 6 4 3
♥ 7 3 2
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A 7 6

SOUTH
♠ K J
♥ K 9 6 4
♦ A J 3
♣ Q 10 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

Dear Charles:
One of my dearest possessions is a leather card case given to me by my mother. It is inscribed with an anonymous quotation: "Life ain't holdin' the good cards. It's playin' a bad hand well!" I was reminded of this at a rubber bridge game in New York arranged for me by Tannah Hirsch. In that game, I held the South cards and he was North. We reached three no trump on a fairly normal auction. Had East seen my card case, I would not have made my contract. West made the

normal lead of the queen of hearts, won the trick in dummy. I had to knock out West's entry, but did not have a clue which black suit to attack. Eventually, I decided to lead a club.

Had East put his bad hand to good use, he would have risen with the ace of clubs and returned a heart, and the defense would have collected five tricks before I had my nine. But the defender played low and my queen won. As a result, I decided West's entry was in spades, so I shifted the offense to that suit. West took the ace and persevered with a heart, but now it needed only routine technique to land the contract.

I ducked the jack of hearts, forcing West to abandon the suit. East won the club shift and reverted to hearts, but it was too late. I rose with the king and had nine tricks. Indeed, as the play developed, West discarded two diamonds, so I ended up with an overtrick. As ever, Omar

Masters tennis tournament opens Tuesday

By Bob Greene
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Forget the computer rankings.

A victory by Boris Becker in the year-ending Masters tennis tournament at Madison Square Garden will make the West German the world's top tennis player, even though Ivan Lendl will remain No. 1 on the computer.

After all, Becker captured the two most prestigious titles in 1989 — Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. And he defeated Lendl in both, downing him in the semifinals on the grass at Wimbledon and in the final on the hardcourts

at the U.S. Open. He also stopped Lendl in the title match of last year's masters.

"I won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open this year," Becker said.

"The computer doesn't say so, but I'm quite close to it, if not No. 1."

"Ivan is consistent and he's won many smaller tournaments. But I've learned that the grand slams are more important, and to do well there is what it's all about."

Lendl, who has won 10 tournaments this year, agrees with Becker about winning grand slam tournaments.

"I would give up (being) No. 1 to win any grand slam tournament," Lendl said. "If I had to choose between being No. 1 and winning a grand slam, I would choose the grand slam any time."

But not just any grand slam tournament for the man who has won the U.S. Open, the French Open and the Australian Open.

"I am more worried about winning in England," Lendl said. "If I can win in England, he (Becker) can win everything else. That's fine with me."

Lendl and Becker are the top two seeds in the eight-player Masters, which begins Tuesday. The first four days will have a Round-Robin format with the players divided into two four-man groups.

In Lendl's group are John McEnroe, French Open champion Michael Chang and Aaron Krickstein. Becker's group is composed of Sweden's Stefan

Edberg, Andre Agassi and Brad Gilbert.

After four days of Round-Robin competition, the top two players in each group advance to Saturday's semifinals. The final will be held on Sunday with the winner earning as much as \$315,000.

For McEnroe, it is a return to the scene of some of his greatest success. He has won the Masters three times, in 1979, 1984 and 1985. It will be his ninth appearance in the Garden, but his first since 1986.

McEnroe, ranked fourth in the world, has won titles at Lyon, France, Dallas and Indianapolis this year.

"The Masters is more important to me than anyone else because I'm from New York," McEnroe said. "I went to a lot of rangers and knicks games at the Garden growing up. So to hopefully play well, and maybe win the tournament, is very important to me."

At 17, Chang is the youngest player in history to win a grand slam men's singles title. He also won an indoor tournament in London earlier this month and qualified for the Masters for the first time.

"The Masters is going to be fun," the right-hander from Piacenza, California, said. "The best players in the world are there and you don't have to worry about losing early. Top players like to play top players. They get more psyched up to play."

Gilbert had a 17-match winning streak during the summer, including consecutive singles titles at Stratton Mountain, Vermont, Livingston, New Jersey, and Cincinnati. He also won the Nabisco grand prix tournaments in Memphis, Tennessee, and in San Francisco, his hometown.

"I was a ballboy here and this is the first pro tournament in which I played the quakes (qualifying

round)," Gilbert said after capturing the San Francisco title. "I said to myself: 'then that one day, I'd like to win this.'"

Agassi, a sensation in 1988 but somewhat of a disappointment in 1989, is making his second consecutive Masters appearance. After winning the singles at Orlando, Florida, last month, Agassi said he was pointing towards the Masters.

"It's the biggest one left," he said. "I'm geared up for it." Krickstein has quietly posted the finest season of his career, winning tournaments in Sydney, Australia, Los Angeles and the Tokyo indoor. Making his second career Masters appearance, Krickstein reached the semifinals at the U.S. Open this year, defeating Jimmy Connors.

Edberg, who won the Tokyo outdoor tournament and was a five-time finalist in 1989, including the French Open and Wimbledon,

Real Madrid slams in 7 goals

MADRID (R) — League leader Real Madrid trounced Real Zaragoza 7-2 on Saturday when Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez scored twice to extend his tally as the Spanish soccer league's sharpest marksman.

Real raced into a 5-1 halftime lead but eased off after the interval with victory assured.

World Cup striker Sanchez struck his first in the last minute of the first half and added the second after the break with a shot

off the post which took his haul for the season to 14.

Michel Gonzalez opened the Madrid side's account with a header and Manolo Sanchis and Emilio Butragueno made it 3-0 before Francisco Higueras pulled one back for Zaragoza.

Madrid midfielder Martin Vazquez, unquestionably man of the match, added the fourth between the legs of goalkeeper Chilavert and Sanchez made it 5-1 with a

free-kick which beat the defensive wall.

Zaragoza hit back with four corners in quick succession at the start of the second half and Higueras headed home his second goal off the fourth.

Sanchez missed two chances before claiming his second goal of the match and Vazquez hammered in the first over the heads of five defenders minutes before the final whistle.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 674111

FATAL ATTRACTION

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Early results show ruling party leading in several Indian states

NEW DELHI (AP) — Early ballot-counting Sunday in the election for a new parliament showed Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party and its allies leading the opposition in several states.

However, most of the reports came from areas where the Congress had been expected to win. There were few reports from the northern tier of states where Gandhi faced a stiff challenge from the National Front opposition coalition led by Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

While no official results have been announced, Indian news agencies gave "trend reports" based on incomplete counting in 104 of the 524 districts where elections were conducted.

These reports showed the Congress Party and allied small parties leading in 84 races, while the National Front and other opposition groups led in 20.

The trends were released while votes were still being cast in the last three states to vote in the election that started last Wednesday and will determine 524 seats in parliament's policy-making lower house.

The election has been marred by fraud and violence that prompted reports in one-fifth of the voting districts, including Gandhi's own constituency.

With the death toll at 126 since voting started Wednesday, tight security was in force when polls opened Sunday morning in Punjab and Bihar, India's most violence-prone states.

The other state voting Sunday was tiny Sikkim, a traditionally peaceful enclave in the Himalayan mountains.

The Election Commission ordered a revote for about 18 per cent of the voting booths in Gandhi's constituency of Amethi, a poor rural area in northern Uttar Pradesh state, after the opposition accused the Congress Party of stuffing ballot boxes and sending armed bands to frighten voters.

But Raj Mohan Gandhi, the prime minister's chief competitor in the Amethi race, said the entire district should vote again.

"I and my party are not taking part in the partial repoll. I refuse to recognise the results of the poll regardless of the results," he told a news conference in New Delhi.

Raj Mohan Gandhi, grandson of India's revered independence leader Mahatma K. (Mahatma) Gandhi, said that in effect he was calling for a boycott of the repolling, but he added: "The voters are free to take their own decision." He entered the race as the candidate of the Janatha Dal, or People's Party.

Congress Party spokesmen have declined comment on the repoll.

An exit poll of 11,107 voters who cast their ballots Wednesday and Friday suggested neither side would win a clear majority, posing the unwieldy task of trying to form a coalition government with smaller parties.

The poll, commissioned by the respected news magazine India Today, predicted the Congress Party would win between 175 and 215 seats while the National Front would net 150 to 195.

Both fall far short of the 265 seats needed for an outright majority in the 543-seat policy-making lower house of parliament.

As the voting started Sunday in Punjab and Bihar, at least 100,000 police and paramilitary troops were deployed in each of the two states.

Sikh separatists in Punjab have killed at least 1,650 people so far this year, and police feared the militants might try to disrupt the elections.

In Bihar, at least 300 people have been killed in clashes between Hindu and Muslims since mid-October. Another 59 people died in campaign-related violence, including 19 who were shot to death late Saturday night.

The Election Commission, in a stunning announcement that dealt yet another blow to Gandhi's faltering campaign, ordered a partial repoll in the prime minister's own constituency of Amethi.

The three-man commission said there were "serious lapses" and threw out thousands of ballots cast Wednesday in Amethi. The commission ordered new balloting at 97 of the district's approximately 700 polling booths.

Partial repolls have been ordered for at least 93 of the 524 constituencies where legislators are being elected for parliament's policy-making lower house, the Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha, or House of the People, has 543 elected members, but some contests were postponed indefinitely because of incomplete voter lists or candidates' deaths.

Gandhi, who was swept into office with an unprecedented landslide of 415 seats five years ago, has seen his support steadily erode as accusations of corruption and ineptitude swirled around his government.

The opposition, led by former Gandhi ally Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has capitalised on these allegations by promising to provide a new era of clean government.

Singh is the head of the Janata Dal, the major partner in the National Front.

It was the shooting of a local Janata Dal leader, Sanjay Singh, in Gandhi's Amethi district that galvanised the opposition's charges of voter fraud and intimidation.

Singh, who was running for the Uttar Pradesh state legislature in voting conducted simultaneously with the national elections, was shot in the stomach in a confrontation with Congress Party activists. His condition, initially termed critical, was improving Sunday, Press Trust of India said.

U.S. covers up Salvadorean army crimes — rights group

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Americas Watch, a leading international human rights group, has accused the U.S. government of covering up crimes committed by El Salvador's armed forces in its war against guerrillas.

The charge was part of an 84-page report released simultaneously in New York and San Salvador at the weekend — which painted a picture of savage brutality and disregard for accepted norms of warfare by both sides in the fighting.

Since rebels of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) launched a major offensive a fortnight ago, the report said, human rights violations by the U.S.-backed military had increased dramatically as government forces took advantage of the fighting to settle old scores.

In turn, the guerrillas used civilians as a shield in the heaviest urban fighting since El Salvador's complex social, economic and political problems erupted into civil war in 1979.

The report also listed incidents in which rebels executed suspected government informers, wounded soldiers in cold blood, planted booby traps and prevented civilians from fleeing embattled areas in San Salvador — all acts that violate the Geneva Convention of the rules of war.

But the New York-based Americas Watch reserved its most scathing condemnation for El Salvador's military, its government and the administration of U.S. President George Bush.

It said circumstantial evidence made it virtually certain that the Salvadorean Armed Forces were responsible for the Nov. 16 massacre of six Jesuit priests who were dragged from their beds and shot during curfew hours.

The military and the ruling right-wing Nationalist Republican Party (ARENA) had repeatedly accused the priests, who included the rector of the Jesuit-run Central American University, of being guerrilla sympathisers.

Bush and senior U.S. officials have said that the killings could have been carried out by FMLN guerrillas disguised as soldiers to blacken the government's image.

But Americas Watch said such statements suggested that high-level U.S. officials were whitewashing the Salvadorean military, no matter what crimes they committed or how clear their culpability.

"Similar practices by the Reagan administration in the early 1980s constitute a shameful chapter in the history of U.S. relations towards Latin America," the report said.

Since former President Ronald Reagan drew the line against Communism in Central America in 1981, Washington has held up El Salvador as a model for democratic advances. It has also provided more than \$1 billion a day in military and economic aid.

Washington points to five democratic elections since the early 1980s — when democratic rule replaced a military junta — to say its policies on El Salvador have been successful.

"President Bush and his allies in Congress have ... once again used the shield of a democratically-elected government to cover up the crimes of the Salvadorean Armed Forces," the Americas Watch report said.

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In turn, the guerrillas used civilians as a shield in the heaviest urban fighting since El Salvador's complex social, economic and political problems erupted into civil war in 1979.

The report also listed incidents in which rebels executed suspected government informers, wounded soldiers in cold blood, planted booby traps and prevented civilians from fleeing embattled areas in San Salvador — all acts that violate the Geneva Convention of the rules of war.

But the New York-based Americas Watch reserved its most scathing condemnation for El Salvador's military, its government and the administration of U.S. President George Bush.

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The military and the ruling right-wing Nationalist Republican Party (ARENA) had repeatedly accused the priests, who included the rector of the Jesuit-run Central American University, of being guerrilla sympathisers.

Bush and senior U.S. officials have said that the killings could have been carried out by FMLN guerrillas disguised as soldiers to blacken the government's image.

But Americas Watch said such statements suggested that high-level U.S. officials were whitewashing the Salvadorean military, no matter what crimes they committed or how clear their culpability.

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Since former President Ronald Reagan drew the line against Communism in Central America in 1981, Washington has held up El Salvador as a model for democratic advances. It has also provided more than \$1 billion a day in military and economic aid.

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